



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Dear foster and kinship carers

I hope you all enjoyed the Labour Day long weekend with your household! Who would have thought we'd be so looking forward to having an outing up to 50km from home, going for a walk in a national park, or having a picnic.

Even though we have these new freedoms, other restrictions remain in place, and we all need to continue to stick to social distancing. Queensland Health has put together a great [list of questions and answers about staying home and going out in Queensland](#) under these new restrictions.

It seems there's lots happening for children indoors too, with new TV programs launched to help carers and children with learning at home.

reading@home TV

Education Queensland has teamed up with Channel 9 to air a special [reading@home TV](#) program to support language and literacy development for children in kindergarten to Year 3.

reading@home TV will air on 9Go! 9Imparja and 9Now every Tuesday and Thursday from 8.30 am to 9.00 am from 5 May.

Two stories will be narrated with key educational points highlighted, such as rhyming words or alliteration, followed by an activity to reinforce the main teaching points.

There will be 10 episodes all up, run over five weeks, with Australian actor and presenter Michael Balk as the host.

Catch-up episodes will be available on the Department of Education's [YouTube channel](#).

learning@home TV

Education Queensland has also partnered with Channel 7 to deliver [learning@home TV](#) to support learning at home for kindergarten and primary school students.

It features curriculum-based lessons prepared and delivered by some of Queensland's best teachers. Content covers English, mathematics and science lessons, as well as health and wellbeing, and special guest appearances.

The two-hour programs are being aired every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding public holidays) from 8.30 am to 10.30 am on 7TWO. Episodes will also be available on 7Plus in the afternoon post-broadcast.

The programs started on Friday 1 May, so tune in this week.

Podcast offers practical tips

For many, COVID-19 has turned life upside down, and some households may need a little extra support.

The University of Queensland has launched the [Parenting in a Pandemic](#) podcast to support carers and children navigate these uncertain times.

In this podcast series Professor Matt Sanders, founder of the Triple P — Positive Parenting Program answers questions from parents and carers and provides practical advice to help steer your household through these uncharted waters.

NDIS assistive technology

From now until September 2020, the NDIS is making it easier to buy assistive technology items. Assistive technology may be equipment or systems that help participants with moving around their home or community, communicating with other people, processing information, and other daily tasks.

Children and young people will be able to use some types of funding that are already in their NDIS plans to purchase an item.

The assistive technology item must help the child or young person to keep using their NDIS funded services. This may include up to \$750 for electronic items.

Please talk to the child's support coordinator or go to the [NDIS website](#) for further information.

Thank you again for your commitment to looking after our children and young people. Please also take time to look after yourself.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

