



Youth and
Children's
Ministries

MORE IDEAS FOR

**CONNECTING
WITH CHILDREN
AND YOUTH
ONLINE**

**A SELECTION OF GAMES AND
ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTED
BY LOCAL LEADERS**



WELCOME

Here are some more ideas for games and activities which will work well in an online setting with your children and youth groups. Send your other ideas for sharing to youthchildren@salvationarmy.org.uk

Further ideas can be found in 'Games for Children and Youth Online' available from <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/resources/coronavirus-response-resources/games-children-and-youth-online>

Disclaimer: Some ideas will need to be risk assessed for your own group. Some games may not be suitable for every group or situation. Remember to get any parental permissions required and to carry out sessions within The Salvation Army's 'Safe and Sound' Guidelines.

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GET CREATIVE

Guess Games

Invite each young person to create a guessing game to play e.g. sweets in a jar, weight of a cake, number of pins in packet etc

Movie Making

On Zoom adjust the setting so that all participants see the same order on screen as the leader or screen share your Zoom screen so young people see that way. Use the Zoom screen like a story board with each young person telling/acting/creating a new part of the story.

Music Madness

Gather different objects which will make different sounds and create a virtual symphony. Set a theme and have the young people reflect this.

Reverse Charades

Use the chat to share with everyone except one person the charades action. Have everyone on screen act out the clue while one person guesses. Give points for creative acting.

Spin the Wheel

Use a website such as <https://wheelofnames.com/> and have young people suggest ideas and activities for the group to do. Spin the digital wheel to decide your evening.

Superheroes

Dress up as a superhero using only the things in your wardrobe and from around your home.

Toilet Characters

Use resources from around your home to turn your toilet into a character e.g. toilet rolls for eyes, give it some shoes, ... Share your screen when ready to see the most creative designs.

GET DETECTING

Bible Verse Hunt

Share a verse reference, have young people race to find and then ask young people to share their understanding of the verse.

Close Up Shots

Get young people to take close up photos from around their home and everyone guess the object.

Escape Room

Purchase an online escape room (there are also some good free ones online) and work through challenges and activities together.

Film Clip Quiz

Play a three-minute clip from YouTube and have 10 questions to give the young people after.

Quiz Me

Split the group in half using breakout rooms. Tell the young people to come up with 10 questions to ask the other group from their own knowledge. (No phones allowed!)

World Tour

Where do you want to visit? Countries, museums, oceanariums, zoos ... Ask the young people to send the places they want to go and set up a virtual tour exploring the world together.

Where in Your Community?

Have each young person take abstract photos of local places when out on their walk. Share photos and have each other guess where they are in your community?

GET EATING

Bakery Master Class

Use a no-bake recipe with minimal ingredients and have a master class and create together.

Cereal Chat

Invite young people to bring their favourite cereal to eat and share conversation.

Hot Chocolate & Cookies

Winter maybe behind us but everyone loves hot chocolate and cookies. Young people could make cookies from scratch, gift a packet of cookies or ready to bake cookie dough.

Mocktails

With a few basic ingredients young people could concoct a range of interesting drinks. Get experimenting and maybe share holiday snaps or visit dream destinations around the globe via GoogleEarth or images.

Pizza Making

Deliver the ingredients for pizza making. You could vary from delivering flour and yeast, to ready to roll bases, or pre baked bases, and cook and eat together.

Popcorn & Movie Night

Hold a popcorn popping evening using either microwave popcorn or popping kernels. Young people could add their favourite toppings and have a movie quiz or screen share and watch a short movie together. (Check out Disney Pixar Shorts – great for stimulating interesting discussions.)

Toast & Boast

Invite young people to bring a piece of toast and add their favourite topping. Share why this is a favourite topping, which is the most popular topping, etc.

*Remember to check for allergies and any additional requirements.



GET PLAYING

Human Guess Who

Have each player put on different items and play real life Guess Who.

Hat Gloves Scarf

The leader disappears and puts on one item. Young people put on one item also. If they match – score a point!

Higher Lower

Using a pack of cards, show a card and young people have to guess whether the next card is higher or lower. If they guess correctly – score a point!

Picture Perfect

Describe an image to young people and have them draw it without looking down. Share your artistic creations.

Online Games

Set up a private room to play an online game with a group using apps such as Among Us or Mario Kart; online websites such as <https://skribbl.io/> or <https://jeopardylabs.com/>; or via gaming consoles using games such as Rocket League or Minecraft. Get relevant permissions and check age ratings before playing.

The Price is Right

Take a visit to Home Bargains/Poundland etc and purchase a range of items with different price tags. Reveal each item in turn and have young people guess the cost. Whoever is the closest, wins the item.

What is in my Bag?

Have young people choose 5 items to put in their pillow case. Everyone else has to try to guess what they have chosen using the clues they give.

GET PRAYING

Emoji Prayers

Have young people choose three emojis, for example one which makes them smile, one which represents sadness and one which shows thoughtfulness. Use these as prompts in sharing prayer stories with God.

Community Prayer Walk

Encourage young people to notice three new things each time they walk through their community. Share together in the next session and bring these things to God in prayer.

Playing Card Prayers

If possible, ask children to have a pack of cards and for each suit or colour assign a prayer topic.

Prayer Stations at Home

Share ideas from <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home> to encourage young people to create their own prayer stations at home.

Sign Prayers

Choose a reflective prayer song and create actions to accompany the words to support your prayer time.

Symbols

Place an image on a screen share and ask young people to annotate with their prayers.

Tin Foil Prayers

Crunch, smooth, create, mould and many other actions. Assign a prayer thought to each action.

GET SHARING

All About Me

Invite young people to participate in show and tell from their home such as favourite room in the house; most treasured possession; something they've owned forever; oldest food can in the cupboard ...

Comedy Night

Invite young people to share their favourite joke, dance move, costume/outfit, silliest face ... Make it a really fun time!

Postcard Hellos

Have each member of the group reach out and write to someone who you have not had as much contact with over this last year. Share and pray together for those people.

Silent Karaoke

Have each young person choose a favourite song and mouth the words for others to guess. Go all out and dress up in costume, use props etc...

Social Media

Work with young people to create content to share on your social media channels: a thought for the week video, photos to accompany quotes, creative questions you want to ask your followers ... Young people are active users of social media. Work together to develop the skills for digital evangelism. Check The Salvation Army Our Hub for guidance around using social media and safeguarding.

Terry's Chocolate Orange (or use a real orange) Reveal

Help young people get to know each other by using each segment of the orange to represent a different category to share around.

World Cup Debate

Choose a theme e.g. biscuits, crisps, toys and get young people to vote for their favourite in knockout rounds to see which your group's favourite is of the chosen theme.



A FEW MORE IDEAS...

Connect

Invite a guest speaker to share with young people on a particular project.

Craft Time

Deliver resources to make craft times more engaging and interactive. Air-dry clay, sewing kits ... Try a resource site such as Baker Ross for ideas.

Get Out

Encourage young people to get outside through setting challenges involving fitness or caring for the environment. You could ask young people to take photos/videos of their activities to share next time.

Joke of the Week

Each session invite young people to bring a joke to share. Create a 'laugh-o-meter' and rank the jokes to identify your group's favourite.

Missionaries

What 'needs' exist in your community? What 'needs' will there be as a result of the pandemic? Plan a social action project as a group which you can do together.

Quiz Night

Connect with the families of the young people by getting the young people to plan and deliver a quiz or challenge evening for them.

The Future

Will the ability to meet face-to-face mean the end of meeting online? Work with your young people to shape what you will do together.