

WV COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

BEST PRACTICES FOR
SERVING AS GUARDIAN
AD LITEM DURING COVID-19

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Overview

Ethical Considerations and Virtual Visits

Maintaining Confidentiality

Communication Platforms

Interactive Communication

First Choice Services

COVID-19 Resources

Moving Forward



Ethical Considerations & Virtual Visits

WV Rules of Procedure for Child Abuse & Neglect Proceedings -
Appendix A: Guidelines for Children's GAL in Child Abuse & Neglect

Section B(2)

A GAL owes a duty of confidentiality to the child.

Section C(1)

Promptly notify the child at initial stages and how they can reach you.

Section C(3)

Schedule face-to-face meeting with child at a time/place that allows for observation and private consultation.

Section C(6)

When appropriate, conduct in-home visits to observe child's living environments.

Section C(7)

Maintain contact with the child throughout the case to monitor whether child is receiving services.



Confidentiality

Maintaining Confidentiality in Virtual Visits

Prepare: Communicate expectation of privacy between you and the child to the foster care agency caseworker (alternatively, the Department worker) and that an invasion of said confidentiality could cause a disruption in placement.

Tip: Ask the child(ren) if anyone else is in the room with them during the call.

How can we use virtual visits?



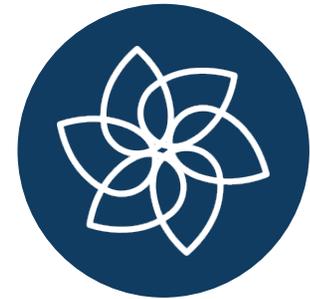
One-on-One Visit



Supervise Sibling
Visitation



Supervise Parent
Visitation



Participate in
Tele-Therapy

COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Tip: Do your best to utilize the technology most comfortable for the party you are serving.

FaceTime
FaceBook
Zoom
Google Duo





Virtual Presence

PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE

Your personal appearance and background should reflect our profession and relationship to the party.

MODEL ONLINE ETIQUETTE

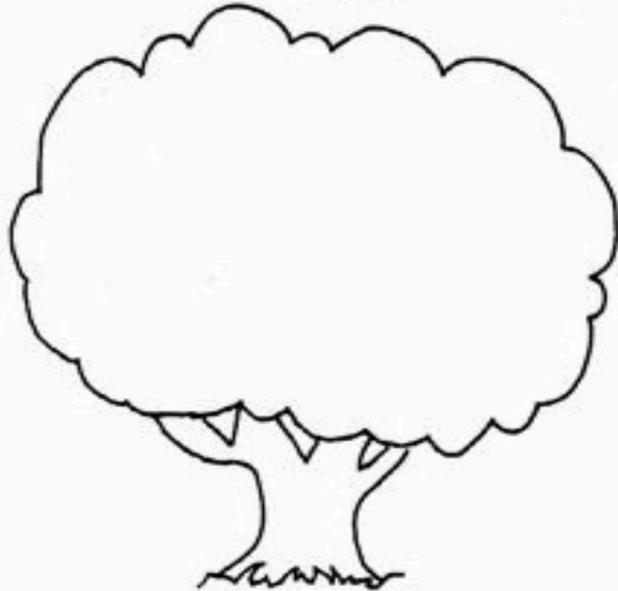
Model behaviors such as one person speaking at a time (encourage hand raising if multiple parties) and remain focused on child(ren) throughout duration of call.

SET EXPECTATIONS WITH CAREGIVERS

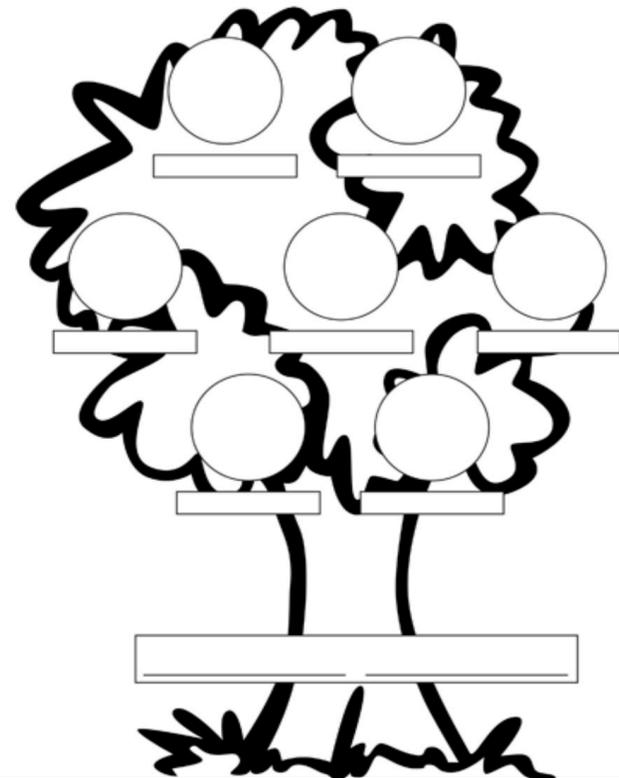
Schedule appointment with caregiver for video call with child(ren) and set expectations for privacy. Encourage caregiver to provide hands on-activity for child(ren).

INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION

My Family Tree

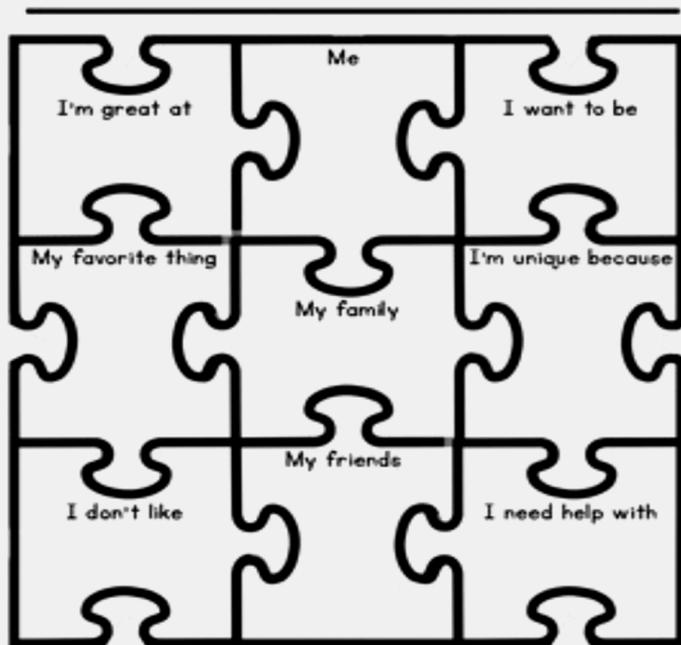


Family Tree

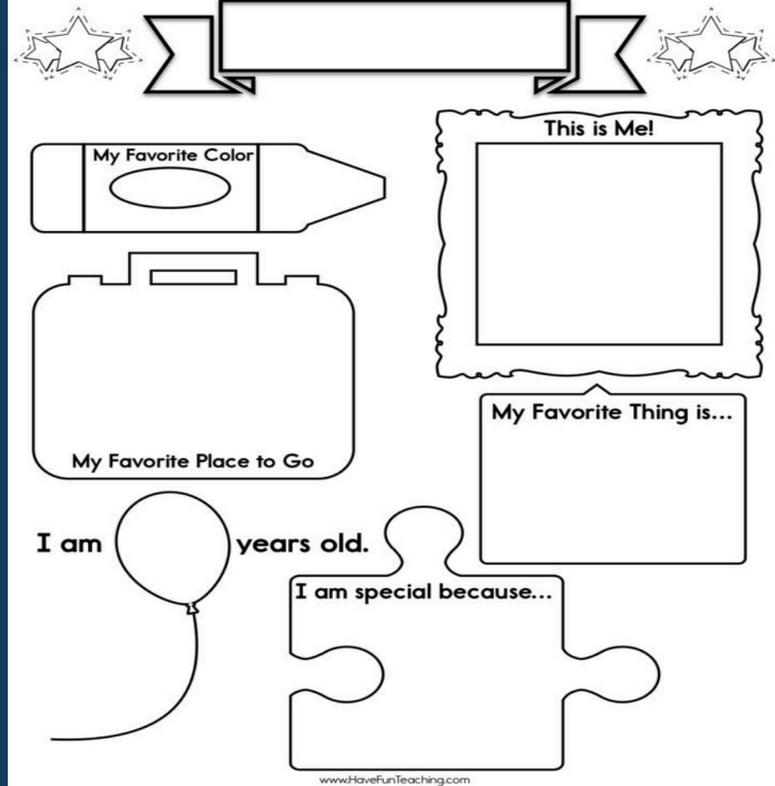


INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION

The many pieces of



All About Me



INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION

STAR BREATHING

Start at any "breathe in" side, hold your breath at the point, then breathe out. Keep going until you've gone around the whole star.

My Coping Survival Strategies Guide

...to remind yourself you are not alone

PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT ME

What Makes Me Smile & Laugh

MY TOP 3 COPING TOOLS

#1

#2

#3

Best Listener and/or Hug-Giver

Just Breathe

...to burn-off stress hormones & pump-in feel-good endorphins

Best Ways to Get MOVING!

Best Ways to SHUT OUT & Bring-In the CALM

BEST POSITIVE AFFIRMATION

Something Kind I Can Say to Myself When Life Gets Tough

What I Can Make Create, play or Build

...mindful breathing sends a message of peace to our minds, slows down our heart rate & reduces feelings of stress

...helping us to feel connected & loved

...HUGS-Oxytocin Release, helping us to feel connected & loved

Interactive Communication

Read Books

*Somebody Cares: A Guide for Kids
Who Have Experienced Neglect*
(Susan Farber Straus)

Create Art

Draw Each Other's Portrait,
Coloring Pages

Play Games

Show and Tell, I Spy, Simon Says,
20 Questions, Charades

Sing Songs

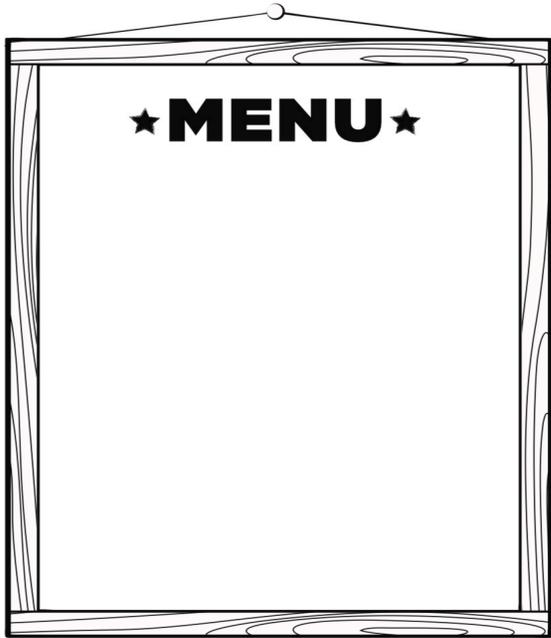
Head, Shoulders, Knees, & Toes;
Old McDonald Had a Farm

INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION



Cookie's Foodie Truck Menu

Cookie Monster and Gonger are monster foodies who love to make food in their foodie truck! Imagine what they are cooking today by drawing your favorite foods on the chalkboard menu.



Visit us at www.sesamestreet.org
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WV COLORING FUN



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Presented by 

TELEHEALTH: FIRST CHOICE SERVICES

First Choice began in 1995 as a collaborative effort among West Virginia's comprehensive behavioral health care centers to combine resources, expertise, and management of statewide behavioral health care contracts. First Choice – which provides Help4WV and Suicide Prevention Hotline – also provides TeleHealth resources for West Virginia.

firstchoiceservices.org/telehealth

COVID-19 Resources

MODEL BEHAVIOR

Maintain a calm, resilient tone when answering questions.

ELMO'S PLAYDATE

Consider utilizing the “share screen” option on Zoom to watch with our young children.

WVU MEDICINE

<https://wvumedicine.org/covid/parent-resources/>

COVID-19 Resources

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CENTER HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT COVID-19

WHAT IS COVID-19?

- 1 Use language that matches their age and development.
- 2 Ask them open ended to questions to determine what they know (e.g., "How are you feeling?", "What have you heard?").
- 3 Stick to the facts:
 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that makes people sick.
 - It spreads very fast from person to person.
 - Many people (i.e., doctors, nurses, and custodians) are working to keep us healthy.
 - Social distancing works to stop the spread of the virus. It is how we keep ourselves and other people safe.

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

Encourage children to write letters to helpers or draw pictures for them. As a family, talk about the things you are grateful for. Make sure children know that you enjoy the time you are able to spend together.



LIMIT MEDIA EXPOSURE

The news can be very scary right now. Parents should limit media exposure for children as much as possible. If they have seen a news broadcast or read something on the internet, talk to them afterward so that you have the chance to clear up false information and offer support.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

Although we do not know when the virus will be gone, we are working as a big team to keep people safe and healthy. Help children understand their role on the team.



WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

Everyone is staying home to help stop the germs from traveling. We can still learn and stay in touch with our friends and family by calling, emailing, or video chat.

TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Tell children that their feelings are normal - no matter what they are. Everyone reacts differently to uncertain situations. They may feel sad, stressed, scared, mad, or confused. Let them ask questions, correct any misinformation, and reassure them that they are safe.



HOW WE CAN BE GERM BUSTERS



Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. This helps wash germs away.



Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth. This stops the spread of germs.



Cover coughs & sneezes with your elbow. This stops the germs from traveling.

PRODUCED BY WVU MEDICINE NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

WVU Medicine
Children's



Moving Forward

**How Can Virtual
Visitation Benefit the
Guardian ad Litem
in the Future?**



How to Connect

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Training Survey

WV Court Improvement Program

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CIPGALTRAINING

Please participate in a survey following today's CLE!