



Home-Learning Activity

Actividad de Aprendizaje en Casa

WEEK OF/

Semana de:

THIS ACTIVITY IS FOR GRADES/
ESTA ACTIVIDAD ES PARA
LOS GRADOS:

Title of Activity/Título de la Actividad:

Learning Outcome/ Objetivo de la Actividad:

Activity Description/ Descripción de la Actividad:

Activity Resources/ Recursos para la Actividad:

Neighbors create "bear hunts" for kids amid coronavirus

By The Advocate, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.30.20

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Level **600L**



Image 1. A bear sits on a bench outside of a home in Oaklawn Subdivision on March 23, 2020, in Lafayette, Louisiana. Residents of Oaklawn Subdivision and Saint Streets area are putting teddy bears in their windows so parents can take kids on bear hunts and take photos of some of the teddy bears. Photo: Brad Kemp/The Advocate

Many children are out of school. They have been forced to stick close to home because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Coronavirus is a flu-like illness. It began in China. It has been spreading across the globe since December 2019. Health officials have been encouraging social distancing. This means staying home and staying away from other people to help slow the spread of the virus. Many schools have shut down. Many companies are telling employees to work from home. Major sporting and entertainment events have also been canceled or postponed.

Still, kids are finding ways to have fun.

In one neighborhood of Lafayette, Louisiana, kids are hunting for teddy bears. Some children carry maps and binoculars.

Neighbors are placing teddy bears in street-facing windows. Children are walking and bicycling through their neighborhood. On the way, the kids hunt for the bears.

Spreading The Word About Teddy Bears

The idea may be based on a book. It's called "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.

In Lafayette, parents and residents came together on social media site Facebook. In early March, they spread the word about the idea. Soon teddy bears started appearing in windows.

Jaci Russo lives in Myrtle Place. She has three bears in her windows. Russo first noticed the idea in mid-March.

"People were putting bears in windows, flower beds, along fence lines," she said. Then they were "posting their addresses [on the neighborhood Facebook page]." That way kids can know where to look.

And the children are serious about it, Russo said. Many are taking paper and pens. They map out where to walk to find bears.

"I love it," Russo said.

Children Write Messages With Sidewalk Chalk

Some parents in her neighborhood walk with their children. Together, in the morning, they go to school to pick up lunch. They also hunt for teddy bears then, Russo said. In the afternoons, children can be seen making chalk drawings of teddy bears. Some write friendly phrases on sidewalks, she added. Some parents are even hanging lines in their front yards. They want to display their children's drawings of bears.

One Oaklawn resident posted on March 23. Her daughter spotted 50 teddy bears on their walk.

If you don't live in the area you can start something similar in your neighborhood.

It's not just teddy bears cheering up people in Lafayette Parish.

Rainbow drawings are showing up everywhere in Sawgrass Park. It's another neighborhood in the area.

Rainbows Are Also Popping Up

Mary LeBlanc has two young children and another on the way. She learned about the rainbows from her sister-in-law in New Orleans. LeBlanc posted it on the neighborhood Facebook page. Word soon spread. Children took out their crayons and markers to create beautiful rainbows. They put the colorful drawings in street-facing windows. Then they had a giant neighborhood I Spy game.

Children also are drawing chalk rainbows on sidewalks and driveways.



Parents like LeBlanc are working from home during the coronavirus. On family walks, they search out the rainbows.

"It's cheerful," LeBlanc said. "It's something to look forward to."

Quiz

1 Read the paragraph below from the introduction [paragraphs 1-5].

Coronavirus is a flu-like illness. It began in China. It has been spreading across the globe since December 2019. Health officials have been encouraging social distancing. This means staying home and staying away from other people to help slow the spread of the virus. Many schools have shut down. Many companies are telling employees to work from home. Major sporting and entertainment events have also been canceled or postponed.

Which sentence from this paragraph explains WHY many schools had to shut down?

- (A) Coronavirus is a flu-like illness.
- (B) Health officials have been encouraging social distancing.
- (C) Many companies are telling employees to work from home.
- (D) Major sporting and entertainment events have also been canceled or postponed.

2 Which question is answered in the section “Children Write Messages With Sidewalk Chalk”?

- (A) Why are parents hanging lines in their front yards?
- (B) How did Lafayette start the teddy bear game?
- (C) Who found the most teddy bears in one day?
- (D) When did people start playing I Spy with rainbows?

3 WHY do children in Lafayette need paper and pens?

- (A) to do homework while school is canceled
- (B) to draw pictures of bears to hang in their windows
- (C) to write notes to share their addresses with others
- (D) to draw maps of where the bears are located

4 According to the section “Rainbows Are Also Popping Up” WHY do people hang rainbows in their windows?

- (A) They show which parents have to work at home.
- (B) People want to support families in New Orleans.
- (C) The pictures are part of an I Spy game.
- (D) Parents draw them to make people happy.