MAR. 2020. ISSUE 1

## Helping You Work From Home + Home School

Interview/Confidence Coach & Mum Tanja - Shares Survival Ideas



CREATING A DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

PE CLASS IDEAS

INDOOR GAMES & KIDS PODCASTS

STUFF FOR 0-5 YEAR OLDS

WISE WORDS FROM A PRINCIPAL

HOW TO MAKE SURFACE SPRAY AT HOME

## **Intro From Tanja**

Dear everyone

My name is Tanja and I am one of the coaches working with **KirstyAnne Ferguson.com**. Like so many of you, I have gone from full time working parent, to stay at home mum with 2 kids. In the past week my work has disappeared. My kids are 10 and 12, so primary & high school.

My husband is also working from home and our house is not big. Sooooo... it's been a challenge adapting to this new way of life. To add to the fun, mum is in lockdown in France and my sister in Belgium, so it's WhatsApp chaos in the background.

I've spent the last 2 days googling like mad how to entertain the kids, how to make home schooling work and how to make surface disinfectant, as you can't find any in the stores!

Kirsty asked me yesterday; "Hey Tan, you are so organised... I am sure you have some tips for other parents who find themselves in the same situation as you. Can you share?"

So here goes nothing, hope my tips help you survive being stuck in the house with kids. If you have any great ideas, please email us, so we can share them with our community.

info@highschooltohireable.com.au

## Create A Daily Schedule

#### Tanja's Daily Schedule

I have created a weekday schedule that incorporates online schoolwork, recess, lunch, fun activities and PE time.

It's not that we slavishly follow this to the minute, but I have found that the kids love having a bit of a routine.

We'll share that as an excel spreadsheet so you can amend it for your family. On the first page is a picture of my kids doing Mathletics together yesterday.

Email me for a copy: info@highschooltohireable.com.au

#### Weekday schedule Activity 8:30AM - 9:00AM Clean up house, get ready for work from home and schooltime 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM Google Classrooms - do work given by teachers 10:45 AM -11:15 AM Recess/Break 11:15 AM - 12:30 AM Google Classrooms - do work given by teachers Persuasive writing Assessment work Maths/Mathletics 12:30 AM- 1:30 AM Lunch/Break 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM Read a book (or Google Classrooms if needed) 2:00PM - 3:00PM Arts & Craft Modelling clay Paper maché Drawing Wood working Computer coding Visit a museum online Family PE TIME! 3:00PM - 3.30PM PE lesson online Yoga lesson online Circuit training at home 3:00PM - 4:00PPM 4:00PM - 5:30PM FREE TIME/PLAYTIME Minecraft with friends online Acro, Dance or Physie (online classes) Play with the dog, play in the vard, skip rope Jump on the trampoline Games on the ipad/phone, FaceTime friends Play with toys or do board games 5:30PM-6:00PM Cook dinner together/ learn how to cook a dish

or continue playtime if not helping with dinner :-)



#### #11 ON TRENDING

P.E with Joe | Monday 23rd March 2020

4,048,494 views



4

## PE with Joe

#### Tanja Found This Guy!

Genius! Search on YouTube for: PE with Joe Wicks.

Found it last night and will start doing it myself with the kids today. I tried to do a PE class with my kids in the backyard yesterday and I ran out of ideas in about 4 minutes flat. Epic fail.

This guy (UK PE Teacher) started doing free 30 minute PE classes in his living room every day, starting this Monday March 23. Link to his first class here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rz0go1pTda8&feature=youtu.be

## Indoor Games, Activities, Podcasts & Links

#### Tanja Is Using 'Big Life Journal'

One of my dear friends who is a school counsellor shared a 10 page document called "Indoor Games and Activities" created by Big Life Journal.

Link to their freebees page incl this document here: https://biglifejournal.com/pages/freebies.

My nearly 13 year old (going on 17) was scrolling through and said - these ideas are for babies, nothing cool. Until he got to page 10 and his eyes lit up.

"Hey mum! This is sooooo cool! I am going to watch the top 5 Ted Talks about Technology and Science! And there are a heap of great podcasts ideas for kids too!"

#### MORE STUFF FOR OLDER KIDS

My son is obsessed with SBS On Demand: Planet Expedition with Steve Backshall

https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/program/planet-expedition

He also loves trains:

https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/program/great-australianrailway-journeys

Last tip from my son - the Smithsonian Museum just released nearly 3 million images from 19 museums and their zoo to use for free: https://www.si.edu/openaccess.

Some stuff to get creative with.

#### **OTHER COOL STUFF**

#### Virtual Tours Blog

Sealife Sydney and Sydney Zoo are live streaming feeding times: https://www.facebook.com/sydneyaquarium/



GO ON AN ALPHABET SCAVENGER HUNT

Make a poster with the alphabet and have your child search for items that begin with each letter.

PLAY HOPSCOTCH IN A HALLWAY

Use any paper you have on hand (or cardboard) to cut out shapes. Use double sided tape to place the shapes on the floor to begin your game of hopscotch.

CREATE A OBSTACLE COURSE

Use items around your house (pillows, pool noodles, baskets, etc) to create a fun obstacle course.

PLAY THE FLOOR IS LAVA

Decide which furniture is ok to jump on and considered safe. Set a timer and the first person yells, "The floor is lava." All other players must get to the "safe" spot before the time runs out.

GO ON AN ANIMAL SAFARI

Draw or print different animal shapes and have your child color them in. Hide them around the house for your child to find.

Set a time to put away as many items until the clock runs out. Call out an item for your child to race towards, grab, and put away!

PLAY A FLASHCARD HIDE AND SEEK

For younger children, hide flashcards of letters and numbers around the house. Have your child find the cards and tell you the letter or number they found. For older children, hide word flashcards or math fact flashcards and have them tell







- · Read or listen to a book
- Journal
- Make a fort
- Listen to a podcast
- Create an "All About Me" board
- Write a letter or draw a picture to mail to someone
- Draw or paint pictures and host an art show
- Make bead or foil jewelry
- Make clay sculptures
- Create leaf rubbing art
- Learn a magic trick
- Create a spaceship out of a cardboard box
- Create paper dolls and houses for them
- Put together a puzzle
- Create a city with blocks
- Create an imaginary creature and write its story

- Paint
- · Write and illustrate a book
- · Do a photoshoot for my stuffed animals
- · Act out commercials
- · Play with toys and figurines
- · Make clothes for my dolls and toys out of scrap fabric
- · Play Cat's Cradle
- Write a letter to my penpal
- · Go on an alphabet scavenger hunt
- · Create shadow art
- · Make my own magazine
- · Make paper flowers or snowflakes
- · Create affirmation or kindness
- · Build with LEGO bricks
- Play Mad Libs and word searches
- Learn to juggle
- Make a Rube Goldberg machine with household items



## Parents with 0-5 Year Olds

#### Sample Paper Mache World - by Tanja's Kids

Parents with really young kids, you have it the toughest and my heart goes out to you.

To help retain your sanity, have a look at the "Calm" app. It's not free, but worth it. https://app.www.calm.com/homepage

My youngest still listens to a sleep story every night (but won't admit it!) It has lots of things for your mental health (to help sleep, guided meditation, relaxation, breathing etc) as well as LOTS for little kids.

Especially have a look at the "Calm Kids" section. Kids sleep stories, meditations, lullabies and soundscapes. The Calm Kids section might help you cut that time of having to sit next to the cot and pat your bub for 1 hour at lunchtime while trying to answer emails on your phone with the other hand (I don't remember those days fondly).

Hack for parents of cheeky 0-5 year old's who can't be trusted with a phone in the room: Download the app on your iPad, connect it to a Bluetooth speaker and put the speaker in the kids (bed)room. So you can keep making calls/work of course, you need your phone. And that way they can't start gaming while you were trying to get them to sleep/chill out. ③

Also to try with the littler ones (& bored bigger ones): paper mache & home made modelling clay made with pantry items. <a href="Papermache: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ba2ePeEiF2E">Papermache: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ba2ePeEiF2E</a>
Home made Clay: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drZc68lSwxY





# Insta Suggestion #allthemumery

A great place to connect with like minded, interactive parents is Kirsty and Katie at <u>all the mumery.</u>

An entire world of play ideas including:

- Learning Boards
- Play Challenges
- Play Creatively
- Mud Kitchen
- Bookish Play



# Wise & kind words written by a principal, about the weeks & months ahead that really helped my mindset.

Dear parents with school aged children.

You might be inclined to create a minute by minute schedule for your kids. You have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments, and book reports. You'll limit technology until everything is done!

But here's the thing... our kids are just as scared as we are right now. Our kids not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before.

Although the idea of being off of school for weeks sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like summer break, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends. Over the coming weeks, you will see an increase in behaviour issues with your kids. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behaviour in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love your kids a bit more. Play outside. Bake cookies and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single kid is in this boat and they all will be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will all course correct and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this!

Don't pick fights with your kids because they don't want to do math. Don't scream at your kids for not following the schedule. Don't mandate 2 hours of learning time if they are resisting it.

If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your kids' mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day.

## Home Made Surface Disinfectant

Super-cheap-easy-to-make-disinfectant for surfaces that kills Covid-19?

Rinse out an empty spray old bottle. Then add 9 parts Methylated Spirit 1 part Aloe Vera gel/spray.

Shake & done.

Our local IGA sold methylated spirits and you can find Aloe Vera in the sun crème section. Add a few drops of lavender oil or tea tree oil for a nice scent. I use it for door handles etc.



Job interview
skills & confidence
webinar program for
High School Students.
Developed in consultation
with parents, school
teachers and students.



### Hang In There Everyone

The High School To Hireable Team <a href="https://www.kirstyanneferguson.com">www.kirstyanneferguson.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@highschooltohireable.com.au">info@highschooltohireable.com.au</a>



