

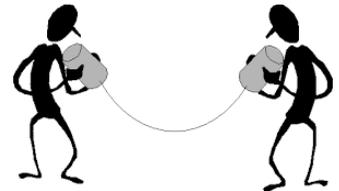


**Big Brothers
Big Sisters.**
SOUTHERN LAKE
MICHIGAN REGION

Big Match Fun ... Virtually!

In lieu of in-person activities, here are some ideas for your match. Not every suggestion works equally well for all ages, although many can be adapted nicely for a wide age-range. Try them out, let us know your favorites, any enhancements you might make, and any NEW ideas you can share. (And please tell us if you need help.) Caveat: Among the game apps listed below, please be aware that we do not know which are available on iPhone vs. Android!

If you think pairing up virtually with another match could make things even more fun and wild(!), just ask your MSS and we will try to deliver!



- **Arts & Crafts**

- DIY: Look at some Do It Yourself websites or apps and find something you'd both love to learn.
- Crafting Websites: <https://www.pinterest.com/TheresaSpringer/crafting-websites/> - large collection of websites you can choose from, or review with your Little. See what you can pull off with whatever you have in your respective homes.
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- **Book Fun**

- Virtual Book Club (for 2 or more individuals)
 - Pick a book that you each have or can get or borrow, or can access via Kindle or another means. Read the same book and talk about it. (Could be great for one or MORE matches!)
 - Take a book you both read OR already know, and take turns making up alternative endings.

- **Creative Writing**

- Co-Author a Story: Consider starting a story of any kind, mailing or emailing it to your Little, and asking him/her to fill in the next section or chapter (or even just the next paragraph or line!) and send it back to you. Send it back and forth as long as you can keep it going!
- Match Journal: Would you like to recreate together the story of your match? You can use any number of formats: Year by year chapters, or one great memory per page, or a compilation of "souvenirs" (e.g., movie tickets or anything else you've saved), or even create a real narrative. Another variation on this theme:



- Through conversation and/or text, try together to remember everything about your match that you'd like to put into a story, and decide which of you will be the scribe, or...
- Decide you'll each write your own and then compare to see who remembers what and what stood out most to each of you
- Add photos of your experiences to make it a Photo Journal
- Poetry:
 - Look up poems together and talk about what it means to you, or plan that you each will come to your next call with a poem you've found and want to share.
 - Show your Little the on-line rhyming dictionary so s/he can have some fun!

● Exploring

- Home Tour: Give each other a virtual tour of your respective homes. Then quiz each other and see if you each can guess things like:
 - Where do you spend the most time?
 - What is the quietest spot in your house?
 - What is your favorite food in the refrigerator at this time?
 - Which drawer is the messiest? 😊
 - Where do you keep your shoes? (etc.)
- Global Treasure:
 - Find and send images or facts about places your Little might be interested in learning more about. Then he or she can do the same on another topic and teach YOU a few things!
 - Take turns spinning a globe (if either of you has one), closing your eyes and putting your finger on a spot that you can then research together.
- Scavenger Hunt: Create a scavenger hunt for each other, for fun or competition. You can either:
 - Take turns selecting the items for the list of what you both need to find, or
 - Create two separate lists: each of you develop the list for the other, or
 - Ask a neutral party to create the list for you.



● Games and Competitions

- Crossword Puzzles:
 - Create your own free, INSTANT crossword puzzle for your Little. Through the following website (www.crosswordlabs.com), you can enter your own custom questions and answers. With the click of a button, it is produced. Then you can teach your Little to do the same and send one back to you!
 - Two or more Bigs can find or create a Crossword Puzzle, send it to their Littles at the same time and see who finishes first! (Note: Works best with Littles who are approximately the same age)
 - The Crossword Labs website also has ready-made crossword puzzles on any subject.
- Game Apps
 - Words with Friends (free Scrabble app you can play digitally together)
 - Boggle with Friends (fast, fun puzzle to play with friends)
 - Game Pigeon (free app with various interactive board games)
 - Meme Wars (a competitive, two-player game about spreading your memes to the widest possible audience)



- Draw Something (another great, free app like Pictionary (more user-friendly on an iPad than on a small phone screen).
 - House of Cards Challenge:
 - Create some masterpieces! Build them simultaneously and check in as you go by video-chat or phone. Or you could create a competition, set a timer and see how far you each get. Send us a photo of your work(s) of art! The following link will give you a “how-to” - https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+build+a+house+of+cards&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS775US775&oq=how+to+do+a+house+of+cards&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j0l4.9330j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_UBx0XsiMGY39-gS3opFg19
- **Get Moving!**
 - TikTok Dance-off: TikTok is an app in which you can create short-form mobile videos. Here is the Beginner’s Guide... <https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-use-tik-tok/>. Or just teach each other your favorite dance moves.
 - Exercise: Make an exercise plan together and either do it simultaneously, or create a competition to see who spends the most time moving, or completes the on-line class, etc.
 - 10,000 Steps: For anyone with a FitBit or a phone or any other device that counts steps. Add up your collective steps each day. Decide which of you will keep track, and perhaps set a goal and give yourselves a reward if you meet it.
- **Other Media**
 - Netflix Party: Check out this link to set up a virtual (age-appropriate) movie night: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/netflix-party/oocalimngaihdkbihfgmpkcpnmlaoa?hl=en>. Here’s what else you can do with it:
 - Chat by phone or text during the movie
 - Pause the movie and make guesses as to what happens next
 - Try to guess the end of the movie
 - Each of you writes down some details during the movie. Test each other after it’s over to see who remembers what (e.g., what color shirt was [character] wearing during a certain scene? Or which character was the first to appear? Etc.)
 - Skype or Facetime, anyone? Keep in touch with a call or video-chat that could be anywhere from a five-minute check-in to an hour-long conversation!
 - Come up with a plan, if you’d like, to add a little structure. Perhaps each time you speak you can plant to share one or more of the following:
 - The best part of your day (or week, etc.)
 - The worst part of your day (or week, etc.)
 - A gratitude list (or even one thing for which you are grateful)
 - Something new you learned that day
 - A new idea to help someone else have a good day
- **Planning Ahead**
 - Match Activity List: Work on a list of new activities you and your Little would like to participate in together once you are back in the community. You can compare your ideas over the phone. Variations on this theme:

- Each of you creates the list you believe the OTHER would most like. See how many you each get right.
 - Crystal Ball: Take turns pretending you have a crystal ball, and make up fun stories about different things that might happen in your life.
 - Future Planning: Especially for high schoolers, see if you can do research together to help Littles learn more about academic and/or career areas of interest. Get on the phone and talk about what you're finding. Learn more about your Little's passions and what will drive him or her forward.
- **Self-Care**
 - Spa day: Get together on Facetime or another video-chat app. Give yourselves a joint mani-pedi...help each other choose your colors...and make DIY face masks!
 - Meditation: Teach your Little how to meditate! Do a meditation session at the same time and come back together to talk about the experience.

We are working diligently to provide additional resources for you and for Littles' families during this time. Below are a few—please do not hesitate to reach out to your Match Support Specialist if we can pull together more needed information.

- **Food Pantries**: <https://www.foodpantries.org/>
- <https://mommypoppins.com/los-angeles>
- **Talking to Kids about Coronavirus**: <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>
- **Comic for Kids: Understanding Coronavirus**: <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>
- **On-line Learning Resources, Apps and Games for Kids**: <https://mommypoppins.com/kids/20-online-learning-resources-apps-and-games-for-kids>
- **Best Podcasts for Kids**: <https://mommypoppins.com/new-york-city-kids/best-of-lists/best-podcasts-for-kids-staying-in-funny-smart-and-scientific-0>
- **Screen-Free Activities for Kids**: At this link you can find activities for little ones through middle schoolers. See if you can find a project to teach your Little: <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/124392/25-screen-free-activities-for-kids/>
- **63 Easy Science Experiments for Kids (using stuff at home!)**: <https://mommypoppins.com/kids/50-easy-science-experiments-for-kids-fun-educational-activities-using-household-stuff>
- **On-Line Tutoring Programs**: <https://mommypoppins.com/kids/classes-enrichment/online-tutoring-services-kids>

Take care yourselves and have some fun!