

**FILLING THE GAP**

**Ideas for activities/resources**

Filling the Gap providers offer the following suggestions and advice about activities and resources to use at Filling the Gap events:

**Sharing resources/ideas:**

If you have good news, resources or information that you would like to share, please email Transforming Lives Together at [info@tltogether.org.uk](mailto:info@tltogether.org.uk) .

**Ideas for activities**

Our Filling the Gap providers are full of good ideas for activities! Here are a few of them:

* Themed or seasonal days e.g. superheroes, cartoon characters, environment, pirates etc.
* Craft activities, maybe following a theme. Plenty of ideas on Pinterest
* Face painting
* Lego
* Baking – if this isn’t possible, decorating biscuits with coloured icing etc is always popular
* Board games - Giant Connect 4, Giant Jenga and Twister are also worth considering
* Messy play – e.g playdoh, sand tray, sensory beads (lots of ideas on the internet)
* Godly Play <https://www.godlyplay.uk/>
* Age related story time
* Beauty workshops
* Meccano
* Sports (some churches have borrowed school playing fields or linked with local sports clubs)
* Local organisations e.g. police or fire (will sometimes bring a vehicle and talk about various forms of safety), park rangers/wildlife organisations (can bring creatures along!), friends or family who can do a hands-on talk etc.

**Activities for older children:**

* Big goalposts
* Table top games such as football, Subbuteo and table tennis (it is possible to purchase a mini set that fits onto an ordinary smallish table)
* Giant Connect 4, Giant Jenga , Twister
* Tablets with a Christian game installed
* Picnic film lunches
* Local PCSOs who bring activities e.g. a FIFA football game on Nintendos

**Ideas developed during the Pandemic for when it is not possible to meet:**

* Craft materials delivered and accompanied by videos on Facebook showing how to use them
* Instructions and kit for: weaving, bookmark making, facemasks, cross stitch, keyrings, seed growing, sock puppets
* Adoption of weekly themes - beach and coastline (buckets, spades and crabbing buckets delivered); self and family (taking photos etc.); nature (nature walk suggestions with wildlife tick list); eco/environment (making things from rubbish), animal kingdom (making elephants from a plastic bottle); Olympics (delivery of hula hoops, skipping ropes, soft balls and bunting); fantasy film and drama (making wooden spoon characters, stage building kit, popcorn making)
* Baking (big bags of muffin and flapjack mix divided into smaller bags and delivered with recipes and paper cases; delivery of cooking apples)
* All activities delivered in a ‘Summer survival pack’ rucksack; delivery of books to read through together via zoom.

**Online Resources:**

The internet has a wealth of useful resources. Here are just a few of them:

* <https://cuf.org.uk/uploads/resources/Decorations-for-you-to-make.pdf> - this has all sorts of ideas for Christmas decorations
* <https://www.facebook.com/rockferrysa/videos> - this shows some videos with ideas for Easter crafts
* https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-church-sessions-themes - lots of ideas for topics and related activities, though you need to pay for the magazine or a PDF Download
* [http://www.funinschoolholidays.co.uk](http://www.funinschoolholidays.co.uk/) – Fun in School Holidays