



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Prevention & Early Intervention

The COVID-19 event continues to affect families worldwide. Strengthening families and communities has never been more important than it is right now. PEI is here to help.

Our program specialists have been compiling family and caregiver resources alongside public health information for you. We will be sending this message out weekly to our PEI Community of providers, stakeholders and advocates until the COVID-19 event lessens. To review previously released resources visit our [website](#).

- [COVID-19 and Texas](#)
- [Real Talk Input - you can help!](#)
- [HRSA Offers Guidance on MIECHV Home Visitation](#)
- [PEI Community Resources](#)
- [Resources for Families](#)
- [Resources for Kids at Home](#)

COVID-19 and Texas

Feel free to share these links with coworkers, on social media and in communications to your staff, stakeholders and community members.

Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas Published Managing Stress During COVID-19: A Resource for Parents. Download the guide in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is working on its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). This request outlines the agency's funding needs for fiscal years 2022 through 2023. You can share your ideas and recommendations about what should be in the LAR by sending an email to DFPSLARSuggestions@dfps.state.tx.us. The deadline for comments is May 31.

Real Talk Input - you can help!

The PEI "Real Talk" section is LIVE on our parenting help site HelpandHope.org! We are always on the lookout for new questions to cover for Real Talk; here's the latest questions for you to consider:

- *"I'm a single parent – what if I get sick because of the coronavirus and can't take care of my child and I have no outside support system?"*
- *"What if all caregivers in the house get sick because of the coronavirus and no one can take care of the children?"*

Send your advice to peinews@dfps.state.tx.us. We look forward to supporting parents and caregivers with real answers!

HRSA Offers Guidance on MIECHV Home Visitation

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The Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA) recognizes that maintaining the safety of the early childhood workforce, including MIECHV home visitors, is essential during the COVID-19 public health emergency. HRSA has provided [additional information](#) to support decision-makers in re-establishing essential services in their communities.

PEI Community Resources

Children's Trust Fund Alliance is offering a suite of materials entitled Conversations for a Better Normal: How the Protective Factors Can Help Navigate the COVID-19 Crisis. Materials include a [facilitator guide](#) with [participant worksheets](#) for each protective factor and a customizable [PowerPoint](#).

During the critical first 1000 days (from conception to age 2) the foundation of a healthy brain develops from nurturing caregiver-infant experiences. Dr. David Willis, Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy, offers his viewpoint on this time period in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic at his blog, [Supporting Foundational Relationships during the Coronavirus Pandemic: An Opportunity for HOPE](#)

Resources for Families

The Children's Trust Fund Alliance offers a variety of ways to interact with families through Parent Voice. This webpage features multiple resources for maintaining connections with parents, including guidance on virtual conversations and social media campaigns based around the five protective factors. [Visit Parent Voices on the CTFA website.](#)

Current guidelines state that masks should not be placed on children younger than 2 years of age. Download and share these infographics from [HelpAndHope.org](#) for use on your social media accounts:

- [Mask Infographic - English](#)
- [Mask Infographic - Spanish](#)

[WorkInTexas.com](#) is a resource hub for information on finding and posting jobs, unemployment information and training opportunities to assist Texans.

Resources for Kids at Home

[ABCmouse](#) offers educational games and resources in English and Spanish for children between ages 2-8 within a secure site with no external links. A free 30-day trial is available.

[ABCya](#) provides over 400 fun and educational games designed by parents and educators for PreK through Grade 6 students.

[Teach Your Monster to Read](#) is an online primer for very young children just learning to read.

[StudentAid.gov](#) has updated information and resources for parents and children applying to or already in college who are affected by the coronavirus. They also offer [checklists for parents and students](#) applying for financial aid for the first time.

We invite all our stakeholders to follow DFPS Social Media accounts at the links below, and check in and promote [Help and Hope](#) on our website and [Facebook](#) pages as we continue to update information and resources. If you have resources to share, send them to peinews@dfps.state.tx.us