

Intermediate stage - update #2

mainly music and mainly play

Options

Here are some options you could consider as restrictions lift. You might want to wait for families to get back into their school/early childhood routines before starting. Your church building might be off limits even if school is back.

There is a need to work through

- What does the Government say?
- What does your church say?
- What does the team say?

Singing

In some states, there are statements being made about singing. To limit the level of singing, we recommend the Session Facilitator speaks out the actions rather than singing the words, do not use any songs without music backing, and include as many rhymes as possible.

Social distancing

Depending on your flooring and to maintain a distance, ask families to bring a picnic rug. Alternatively, use masking/painter's tape to mark out squares for families.

When the song requires moving around, the moving can be undertaken on the spot.

Cleaning toys

In warmer climates, you could meet at a local park and run a session using a portable speaker and phone. Everyone can keep their distance by staying on their picnic rug.

Consider that if you use toys, all those brought out will be touched. Bring out a limited number and clean afterwards with soapy hot water, wiped over with disinfectant. Consider Covid-19 to be like 'glitter' – spreads easily and sticks for a time!

As a team, make a decision about the door handles, light switches, chairs and tables and other surfaces that will need to be wiped. Fabric items will require going through the washing machine so preferably don't bring out those types of props or toys. Make less work for yourselves.



Props

Here's an idea for cleanliness and eliminating cross contamination.

Covid is going to be around for a while. You could consider family-owned 'Prop bags'. Wash and clean all your main props – scarves, maraca, claves, tambourines, bells, bean bags, and I Spy/LOVE sheets.

In a bag (we can suggest a great bag for this!) place two of each except the I Spy/LOVE sheets and that becomes a 'first child' bag. That gives grown-up and child a set of props each. It's important for grown-ups to model the moves and actions. If you use the feather and rainbow songs from Original Songs Volume 3, you might want to add these props too.

For additional children in the family, have other bags made up with one of everything.

Then sell these to your families - a one off charge. They keep the bag/contents, clean them and care for them. And when new families join, you can sell more prop bags. (FYI mainly music will be selling complete prop bags in the near future as an option for families to purchase when attending groups.)

Every 3-4 weeks when your session content changes, send an email, Facebook notice, TXT or WhatsApp message to all the families. *You'll need a shaker and claves this week.*

Keep 3-5 sets of available props for first time families that are wiped down each session. They would then buy a prop bag or two from the site. Alternatively sell 'family bags'.

We recommend that for the next season, while people are getting used to all the Covid implications, limit the use of parachutes and Lycra.

You're probably aware that for a child, the actions of leaving their grown-up and coming to the front or receiving the prop as they sit quietly are full of learning and attachment experience. You could give a feather to each child or have them come to the front, line up (another learning experience) and collect a feather, running back to their grown-up to discuss the colour they have. With the expectation - the feathers don't come back!!! They go into the bag and whether they stay or not, the next time you use feather songs for 3-4 weeks, you'll give out a new issue!

Registration

It is expected that you will enter people's details when attending as usual. This is our practice for the purpose of pastoral care.

Appropriate signage

Depending on your flooring and to maintain a distance, ask families to bring a picnic rug. Alternatively, use masking/painter's tape to mark out squares for families.

Team members

If some families from your church can't return to work and have pre-schoolers, maybe they would like to join the team and enjoy music, even for a season.

If team members wish to wear face masks

Take a photo of their face without the mask and then a second photo with the mask. Place the two photos, side by side, with their name easily readable on a noticeboard. This will become a place where children can be assured that the masked person is still Carol, whether she is wearing a mask or not!



Cleaning

The best cleaning method is to use warm water and detergent. You should avoid any cleaning methods that may disperse the virus or create droplets, such as using pressurised water, pressurised air (including canned air cleaners), dry cloth and dusters.

We hope these ideas become a springboard for even better ideas that unfold at your location!



In coming today, I confirm:

We have not, in the past fourteen days, been in contact with anyone who has been overseas or diagnosed with coronavirus.

We have not personally been diagnosed with coronavirus and do not have any common cold or flu-like symptoms.

We have not been in contact with anyone who has common cold or flu-like symptoms.

We are healthy and, to the best of my knowledge, pose no known risk to myself or others in this session.