



MERCY CONNECT

A PROJECT OF
MERCY WORKS

CONNECTIVITY

Mercy Connect Sydney

Term 1 April 9th 2020 – Special Edition

In this special issue of **CONNECTIVITY**, we look at

- **How we can use the internet to communicate with the important people in our lives.**

Some of our volunteers have commented on how sad they feel about losing two of the highlights of their week.

Their day as a volunteer mentor and the time spent in their grandchildren's company have been taken away for an unknown time as people observe social distancing protocols.

Importantly the parents of the children will appreciate it if you set aside a time each day to connect with the children in your life and take them off their mum's or dad's hands for a while.

Many of our volunteers are already offering help online to your grandchildren or their nieces' and nephews' children.

LISTED BELOW ARE SOME ACTIVITIES YOU MIGHT LIKE TO TRY WHEN NEXT YOU CONNECT WITH YOUR GRANDCHILDREN OR GRANDNIECES AND GRANDNEPHEWS:

1. Read Together

Have them read to you from their favourite book when you are connecting online through your preferred communication app.

FACETIME, ZOOM, FACEBOOK, WHATSAPP or SKYPE all allow you to videoconference.

Or read to them.

Here is some advice that has worked for one connected grandparent:

TIP: Don't hold the book.

Place the book on a coffee table, or other table. Then hold the iPad or other device over the book with one hand. Your other hand is used for turning pages during your video chat.

Looking on your tablet, you can see at a glance what the kids are seeing. If you lean a bit, even with your device over the book you can see the page itself so you can read the words to the kids.



TIP: Know where your camera is on your device — and practise capturing the book page or part of the page!

Using the camera feature of your device, practise holding it over a book. Soon you'll get expert at capturing what you want.



TIP: Zoom in on the artwork that shows what you're reading about. Book pages often show multiple things going on for separate parts of the story. Move the iPad around and often move it closer to the page to capture the artwork *for what you are reading at the time*.



Listen to the words you are reading ... and show the part of the layout that applies to that section.

You may or may not decide to show the printed words on a page while reading books. Younger ones may want to just see pictures. You could ask the older ones to take over reading the text. Experiment!

Practise a bit with your device and a book before you start reading to your grandchild

on Skype or Face Time.

Even if you do make mistakes they learn through seeing the mistakes and often have fun correcting you. After a while switch roles and they can read you their favourite story.

With older children, it is more of a challenge but shared reading of Harry Potter is a good starting point.

Source:<http://www.milesawaygrandparenting.com/2020/03/20/far-away-from-grandchildren-as-you-shelter-in-place-5-tips-on-reading-picture-books-to-them-across-the-miles/>

2. Hold a spelling bee.

Ahead of time, give your grandchild a list of words to study and then conduct a spelling bee.

Work out some rewards.

If you are clever you can set up a joint facetime across several households and if you are lucky enough to have more than one grandchild you can conduct a spelling bee across the households.

You may choose to be a participant and one of the kids can be the quizmaster.

3. Have a sing along or have them give a small performance such as poem reading, a dance or a song.

Remember you could be expected to perform for them.

Choose a song that you both know and like.

Perhaps your grandchild may be able to teach you a song they like after performing over skype then sending you the lyrics to join in with them.

Karaoke is another choice.

4. Draw together.

Design a basic blackline master of a background – a landscape – rolling hills or a simple house.

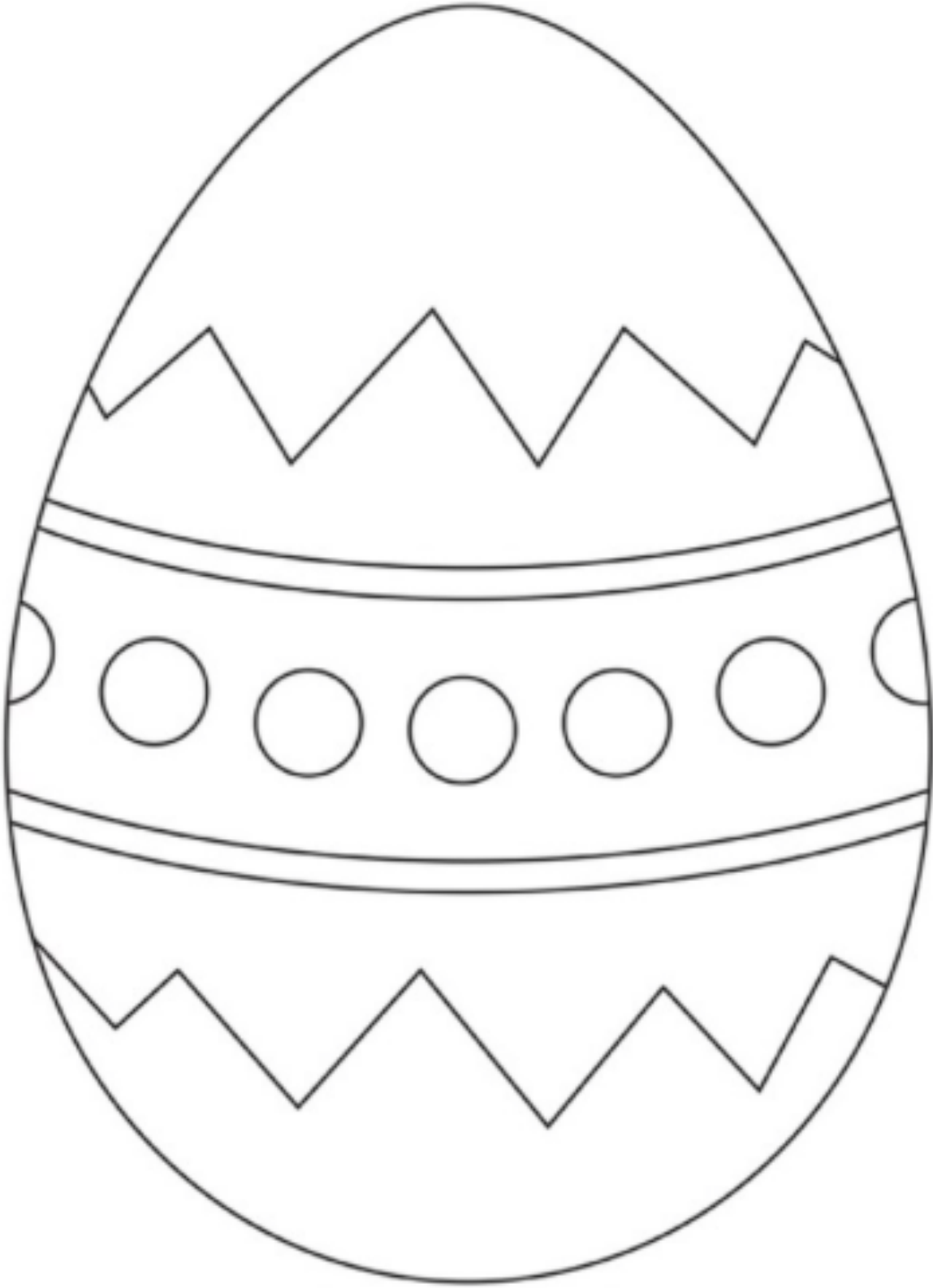
Scan it and send it to the child.

Each of you can colour it in simultaneously, discussing and planning what you intend to do before and as you go along.

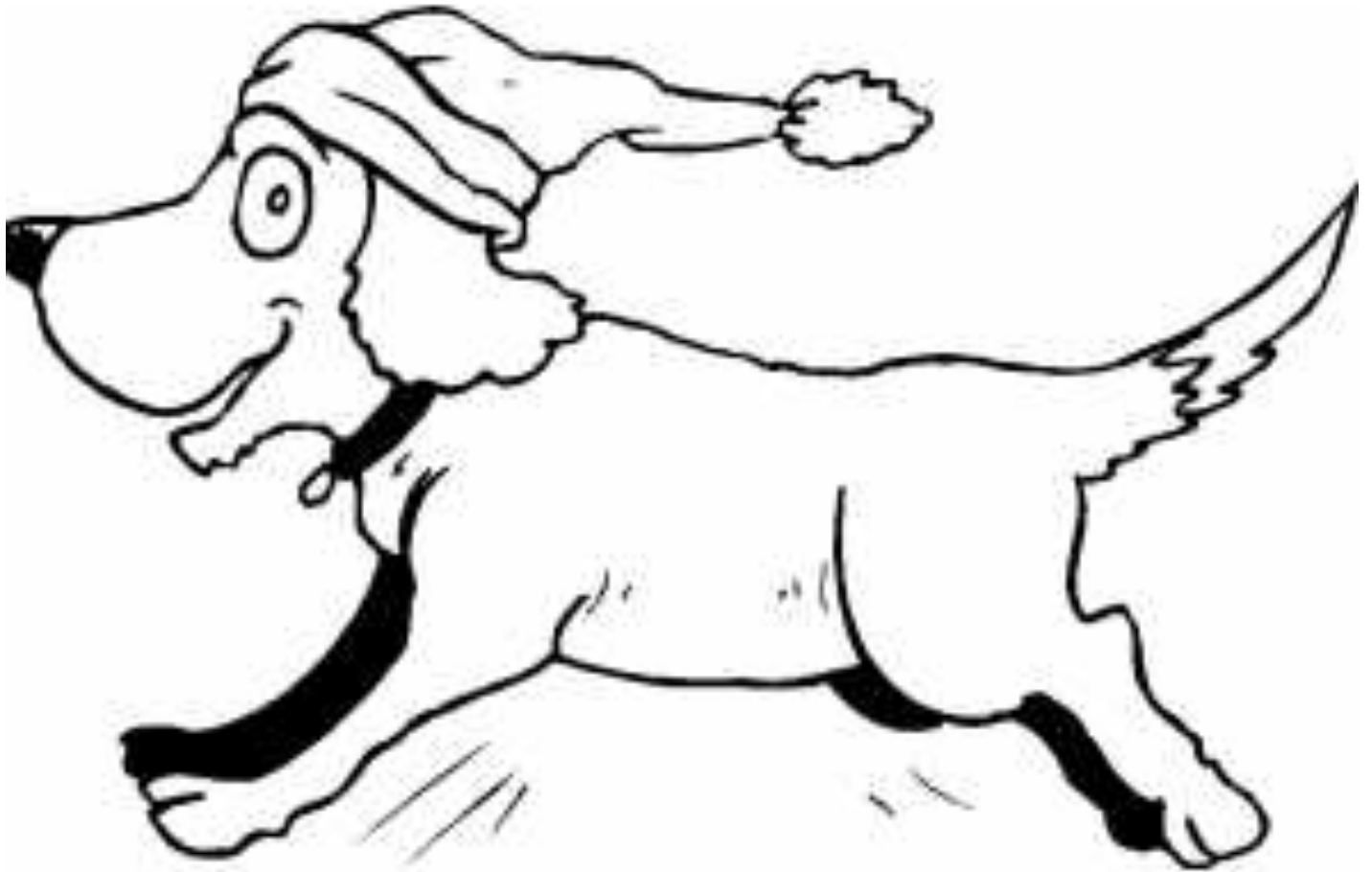
Compare drawings along the way and completed products. Or maybe wait till the end for the grand reveal.

For example, design and colour an Easter egg together

Large Easter Egg

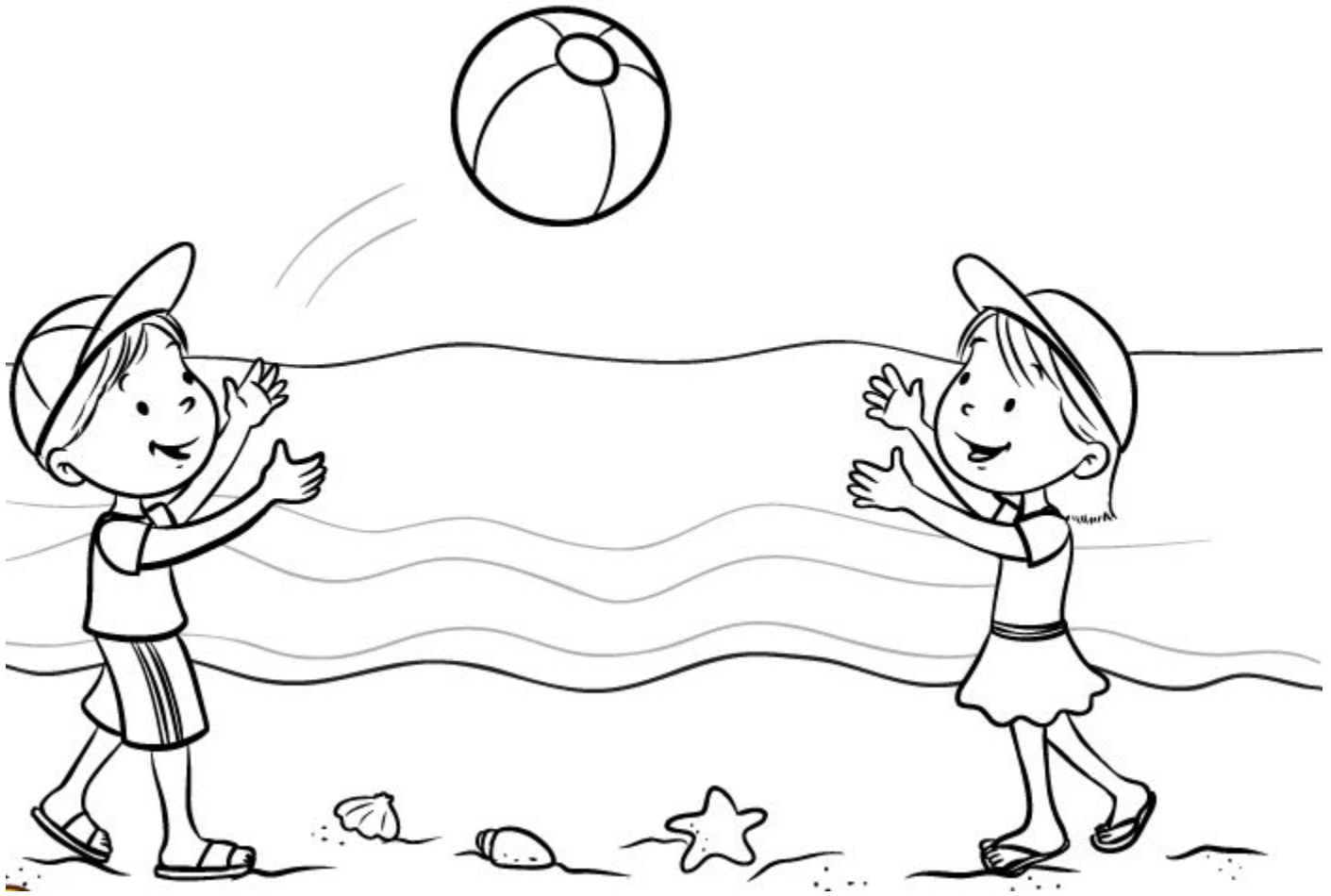


Your favourite dog:



***Discuss what a preferred colour for the dog.
Will she have spots?
What tricks can she do?***

Or a day at the beach.



These are just some ideas.

Please tell me about some of your favourite on-line sharing activities so that I can pass them onto others.

Soon I will send you through some activities that schools have found particularly engaging for students.

Warm regards for a very happy Easter.

Paul Taylor
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Sydney