Hello dear Tapori,

We are living in very strange times. To fight the Coronavirus or Covid-19, we are not allowed to do everyday things such as shaking hands, hugging, getting close to people, meeting with our friends or leaving our house. Lots of us are wondering how we can stay connected to each other in these strange times, without leaving anyone behind.

Let’s imagine a big circle. Everyone is in the circle, and no one is left out.

To make the circle, we need to know what is happening in the world where they are, and how they are feeling. To make the circle bigger, we need to help and listen to each other. This newsletter starts off by sharing how some children are feeling, and what is happening where they are in the world.

We’d love you to tell us how you are feeling. We have come up with some activities for you to take part in, to help you stay in touch with others and share some positivity. Share with us your strength, solidarity and friendship.
My name is Marcos, I'm 10 years old. I live in Peru. I have 5 brothers and sisters.

The TV news says that there is an invisible virus that kills many people in all the countries. We are careful and sensible because we wash our hands every day, we don't go out in the street. Only my mother goes out to buy some groceries. Now because of what's happening, I don't go to school. School lessons are broadcast on radio, television and on the internet. In the beginning it was difficult because two of my brothers are in high school and at 9.30 in the morning they have to listen to the radio, at 10 in the morning one has to watch TV and then in the afternoon the other one has to listen to the radio.

In March, the government gave some money to support each family. That helped a lot. Without this support, it would have been very complicated but it is still not enough. What we need most is rice, vegetables and milk. My mother says the prices of food like rice have gone up. We need to eat less rice at home. The government said they will give more support, but they didn't say when. It's better to have a regular job.

I'm Hannah. I'm ten years old and I live in the Philippines. For me, the year 2020 is the saddest year I have ever lived, because we are living in a very difficult time. I am discovering how hard it is to be like a prisoner. We are not allowed to go out. I realize how difficult it is when my father doesn't have a job. That makes me sad. Besides, we can't even be happy on the day of our birthday. To help my parents and my grandmother, I don't leave the house and... I keep praying that this coronavirus doesn't spread further but that it will disappear from this world.
My name is Zakaria. I'm eight years old. I live in France. School at home is boring. I love it when we do activities together, like snakes with recycled corks or castles in a roll of tissue paper, when we play... with Lego; I love to invent with my sister, Dad and Mom to create an imaginary world.

My name is Manel. I'm six years old. I'm Zakaria's sister. I like home-schooling. 
I quickly do my lessons so I can help Mom or Dad with the cooking. Today, Dad showed me how to make a Tunisian dish, it was great. What I don't like about the "Corona" is the confinement because I can't see my friends.

My name is Tresor. I'm nine years old. I live with my parents and my four siblings in Burundi. In our culture, it is very important to shake hands, but because of the distancing and hygiene rules given by the Government, everyone is afraid to go out. My parents don't have a stable job. My dad does small construction jobs and my mom has to go out every morning to sell firewood at the market in order to feed our family. Sometimes they both stay at home. Sometimes, they take the risk of going out without even any protection just to make sure we have something to eat.

These are just a few short stories about what life is like for some children. Would you like to share what life is like for you during the pandemic?

If so, simply fill in the following chart, using the boxes on page 4 to write or draw a comic strip, a word, a sentence, a poem, a drawing and an object.
Once all the boxes have been filled in, don’t forget to send your creation, or a photo of it, to Tapori.
Activities

Stay connected!

Yes, but how? How about sending messages to one another?
We have to find something symbolic to go with the message.
Some people have thought of a window, because when you’re stuck in
to your house, it’s the only opening you have to the outside world.
Others have thought of a bridge because it connects the
two places separated by a space or a river.
Our friends in Spain and France have suggested the hand and the bird
you will find below.
Yes, you want to keep in touch with others too!
Choose a symbol that can be a hand, a bird or something else.
Write your message of solidarity and send it to Tapori.

Materials you need:
• one sheet of paper
• scissors
• markers/color pencils

What to do?

Step 1: Fold a sheet of paper into two

Step 2: Draw your bird on one side of the
        folded paper.

Step 3: Cut out the bird! Before cutting, make
        sure that the part between the two wings is
        NOT cut.

Step 4: Color in black the empty space be-
        tween the wings. Do the same on the other
        side.

(A) The Messenger Birds

Tapori children in Madrid invite us to do
our today’s circle through messenger birds
that will link us all together.
The idea is to send words of friendship
and encouragement to one another.

Photos: Tapori New York

Drawing: Tapori Facilitator from Tanzania
Step 5: Start coloring the bird the way you like. Don’t forget to color both sides.

Step 6: Inside the bird, write your name, age, city, country. Write your message of solidarity for your family, your friends or to the whole world.

When the bird’s finished, send it to Tapori!

(B) Tomorrow, Children Celebrate Together

Some day, when this is all over, we’d all like to get together, play together, be friends with one another. So, think of the circle with everyone.

To which children around you and around the world do you want to express your friendship? Who do you want to greet? What kind of world do you imagine for tomorrow?

- Trace the outline of your hands and decorate the drawing with the materials you have. (pencils, felt-tips, paint, chalk, clay, collage, assembly of materials, ...)
- Write the message you want to share with your drawing, to say what you dream about: “For tomorrow, I dream of…”

- They can be dreams for yourself, your family, your neighborhood or for the world!
- Once the message is finished, send it to Tapori or stick it on your window, on your door, in your building lobby, on your gate, in a place where you know others can see it.
- Invite other children and adults to join you. Adults can also draw their hands!
Procedure:
The objective of the game is to begin at the "start" square and reach the "finish" square.
The youngest player starts. The first player rolls the dice or draws a paper.
Depending on the number drawn, they move their token forward and carry out the exercise
on the corresponding square.
If they succeed, they can stay on this square until their next turn.
If they fail, they go back to the original square. The players take turns.

Options:
Easy level: a player is declared the winner as soon as they reach the final box.
Hard level: A player is declared the winner when they land right on the "finish" square.
Otherwise, they move back as many squares as the number shows, and will try their luck again
at the end of the next round.
For older players, you can decide to double or triple the times indicated by the boxes.
It’s up to you to imagine some other rules!

Recipe for positivity against coronavirus!

- a pinch of smile
- 250 grams of joy

Don’t forget to send your recipe to your friends and to Taporri!

Materials:
a dice or six small papers numbered from 1 to 6 AND a token to move by player:
one stone or one seed...

Staying positive!
The Keep-fit game!

1. Stand 5 seconds on one foot.
2. Try to do this position.
3. Jump on the spot 10 times.
4. Make a bridge for 10 seconds.
5. Move two squares backwards.
6. Hold this position for as long as possible.
7. Try to do this position.
8. Go back to the start.
10. Bend your legs and stretch your arms as long as possible.
11. Hold this position for five seconds.
12. Stand one foot for five seconds.
13. Hold this position for as far in front of you as possible.
14. Roll again.
15. Make a bridge for 10 seconds.
16. Hold this position as long as possible.
17. Bend your legs and stretch your arms as long as possible.
18. Hold this position for 5 seconds.
19. Hold this position for 10 seconds.
20. Roll again.
21. Stretch as far in front of you as possible.
22. Move one square backwards.
23. Move two squares backwards.

Level

Source of the game: https://twitter.com/sevehdbrg/status/1242877855475826688

By Severine Haudebourg
Illustrations: Macrovector / Freepik