

# Parenting in the Pandemic

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## Several months into the coronavirus, uncertainty is still an everyday experience.

Given the wealth of sometimes confusing and contradictory information we are spoon fed by Washington, we are left to our own devices to decipher announcements, e.g. — Do I wear a mask or not wear a mask? Do I still need to practice social distancing (a classic oxymoron: what is sociable about keeping distances between each other)? And so on.

But one thing we can be absolutely sure of: there's a whole lot of what we'll call parenting in place going on around the world. Whether you are parenting your children — or parenting your parents — for many people that must be very stressful. Familiarity breeds contempt, as the saying goes, but 24/7 familial hunkering sends contempt to a whole other universe. Dealing with the pandemic means most working people (who are lucky to be working) who used to have their youngsters tended to by grandparents, babysitters and pre-school providers are now filling that role themselves. Meanwhile, we are all hoping for the best possible outcome. But hope is not a plan.

So of course what parents need are some quality time distractions for the kids. Ideally, your charges aren't watching TV or playing video games all day and night. Wait — scratch that — many kids of all ages would be perfectly satisfied watching TV or playing video games all day and night.

So the key is finding some other bright, shiny object to distract them from all that screen time.

Look no further than Amazon — for if you buy it, they will build it (hopefully). What we're talking about buying are assembly-required, gear-intensive models of construction equipment, cars, robots, etc. Indeed, there's a model for all ages. They are made of various materials, including plastic, metal and wood. We should probably stipulate here that some of these may have appeared in earlier Addendums. But given the heightened need for such worthwhile distractions, a second showing seems in order. And consider: when this is all behind us, you'll have a quality souvenir from a time that scared the bejesus out of us. So go to Amazon and pick the model (or models) that will grab the kids' — and adults', why not? — attention for hours on end. It's a pro-active move that will aid you and your family during the pandemic.

Here are just a couple of suggestions. Check Amazon for current price and delivery options:

### Learning Resources Gears! Gears! Gears! Motorized Wacky Wigglers Gears Building Set, 130 Pieces

Kids develop creativity, imagination and fine motor skills by building glowing creatures

Supports STEM by introducing children to sorting, grouping, counting, designing, constructing, and putting physics into play with spinning gear movement

This 130-piece motorized set includes colorful gears, springs, chomping teeth, flashing lights, whiskers and glow-in-the-dark eyeballs for endless creative combinations

Requires 3 AA batteries, not included. Ideal for ages 5+.



### ROBOTIME 3-D Puzzle Engineering STEM learning mechanical wooden laser-cut model gears kit for adults & teens

This is a perfectly designed DIY kit that requires your hands-on work to complete. The whole set is extremely well designed, with very tight tolerances and good machining. The interlocking mechanisms are pretty ingenious. Details are already cut and ready to assemble. The wood is beautiful and smooth. With Laser Cutting Technology, the pieces are easy to remove from the sheet of plywood, the laser cutting is precise and clean (no residue smoke burns). The pieces go together smoothly and with step-by-step visual instructions. ⚙️

