

# LEARNING DURING COVID-19. OUR VOICES.

During the COVID-19 lockdown in Tasmania, some of us started learning at home, but some of us still came to school because our parents and carers had to leave home to go to work. In Term 4 2020, around 50 of us from three schools across Tasmania came together with researchers from the Peter Underwood Centre. We made collages about our time during lockdown then some of us chose to tell researchers about our collages in an interview; we talked about life at home and at school, and about how we learned. A separate group of 10 of us looked at some of the collages and the interviews and helped to analyse the information. We were called the Children's Reference Advisory Group. Even though we all made individual reflections about this unique time in our lives, we observed that there are some common themes in the collages and interviews.

Overwhelmingly, we LOVED being with our **PETS**. They were excellent company and we felt closer to them. We also took more responsibility for their care. Some of us did research projects on our pets and other animals. We also really enjoyed spending more time with our **FAMILIES**. At times it felt difficult being with them in the house more often, but we felt closer to them and we did more together. Many of us really missed our extended families because we couldn't see them as much in person. Our parents and caregivers - and sometimes even our siblings - helped us **LEARN** at home, but it was often challenging to do school work without our teachers and our friends being right next to us. Even those of us who came to school found it difficult, because our closest friends weren't there or because our teachers were different. But we did lots of learning with school work and also at home. Lots of us learned new things, like how to: cook new recipes; help in the garden; teach our pets tricks; do stunts on our bikes; make up games; and use technology to talk to our friends, some family and our schools.

We talked a lot about our **DAILY ROUTINES**, too, particularly about when we did our structured learning and when we got some free time. Some of us became more confident with our school work, because we had time to learn at our own pace. Many of us learned things about ourselves, like how to bounce back, stay calm, focus and persevere. What we **LOVED** about the COVID-19 lockdown was having more flexibility, not having time pressures to do our school work, spending time with our families and **SLEEPING IN**. But we **DISLIKED** feeling bored and locked in the house. We noticed how good teachers are at explaining things, even when our families tried their best. Many of us really missed our friends and our teachers and being at school together.



**I learned I could be more patient.**  
I LEARNED MORE BECAUSE I COULD DO IT AT MY OWN PACE.



**I loved exploring and finding exotic pets.**



**I could sleep in and not get in trouble. My special place was outside.**

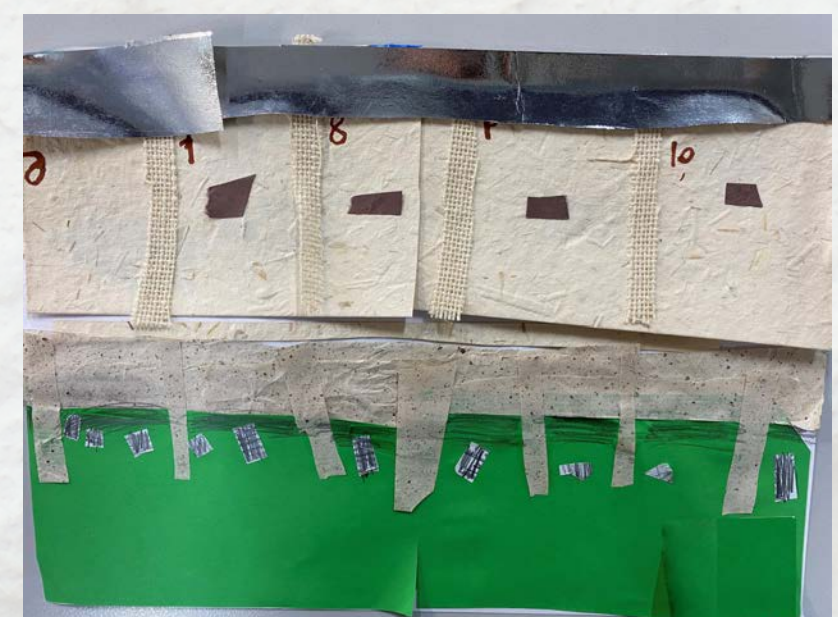


**I enjoyed being with my family.**  
I TAUGHT DAD TO COOK BROWNIES.



**My brother and I helped each other.**

**I MADE A NEW FRIEND AT SCHOOL BECAUSE MY OTHER FRIENDS WEREN'T THERE.**



**I looked forward to visiting Maria Island. At home I liked doing little pieces of work.**







Family is the most important thing in the world. I WAS HAPPY AND INDEPENDENT AT HOME.



I was imprisoned in my own home. I ENJOYED COMMUNICATING THROUGH CANVAS.



Mum left a list of jobs to do around the house. I TAUGHT MY DOG NEW TRICKS.



I got good at maths with my sisters but the teacher didn't know and sent me easy stuff.

# Nanna

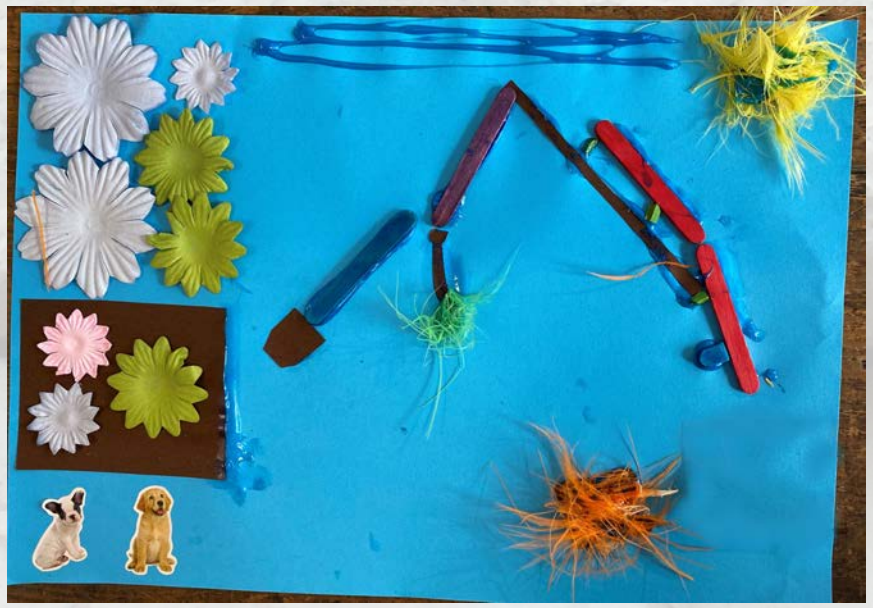
taught me about gardening. I COULDN'T WAIT FOR THE NORMAL BREAKS TO EAT.



I spent too much time on electronics. I LEARNED WHAT FOOD AND TOYS MY DOG LIKED AND MORE ABOUT HER BEHAVIOUR.



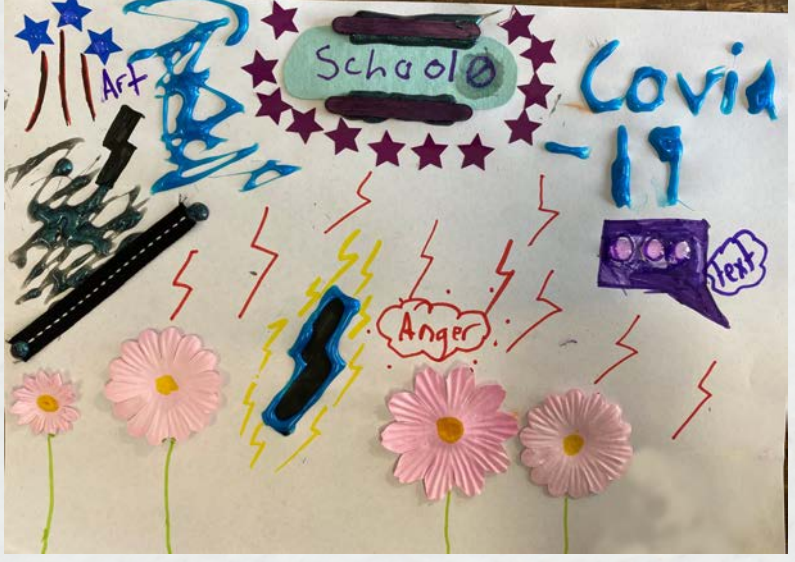
Home learning was easy because it was quiet. But I missed having help from my friends.



I could take the time I wanted for school work. IT DIDNT FEEL LIKE MY PROPER LIFE WITHOUT SCHOOL.



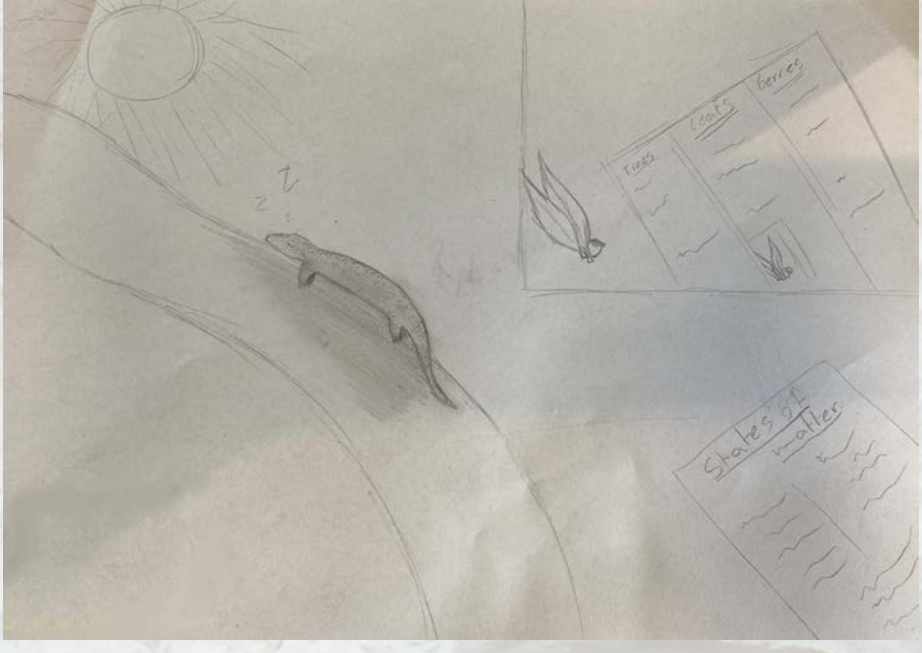
THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO AT THE PARK.



Dad gave me words to create a story.



At home you can choose your own pace. I LEARNED HOW TO MAKE BRACELETS.



I researched my pet lizard. I BUILT A STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PETS AND MY BROTHER.



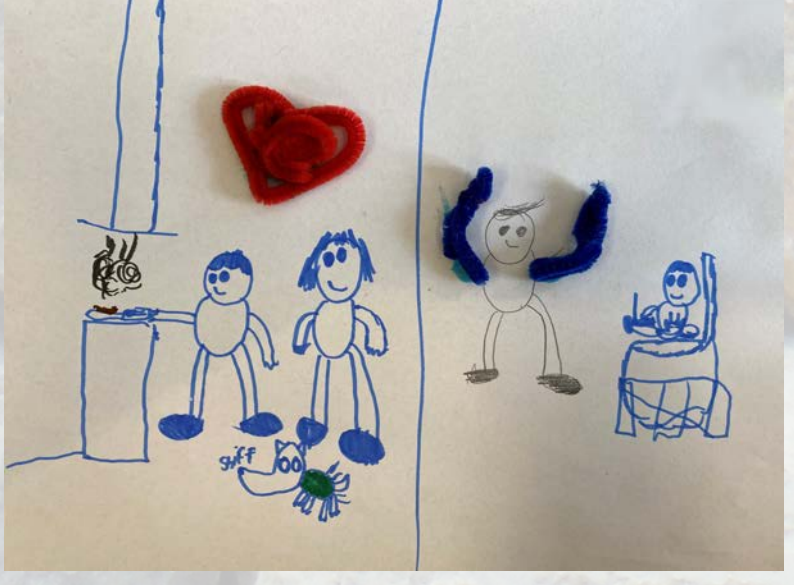
I learned to think before doing. SCHOOL WORK: NO-ONE FORCED YOU TO DO IT BUT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.



Mum used her magic to fix the computer. I ANNOYED MY BROTHERS WITH A NERF GUN.



I was distracted and frustrated at home and better at school. I CONNECTED THROUGH KIDS MESSENGER WITH MY FRIENDS.



# I was happy and a bit not happy.

MUM KEPT AN EYE ON ME WHILE I COOKED.



My dog is special because she made me happy. I LEARNED ABOUT THE MATHS YOU NEED TO BE SAFE IN A BOAT.

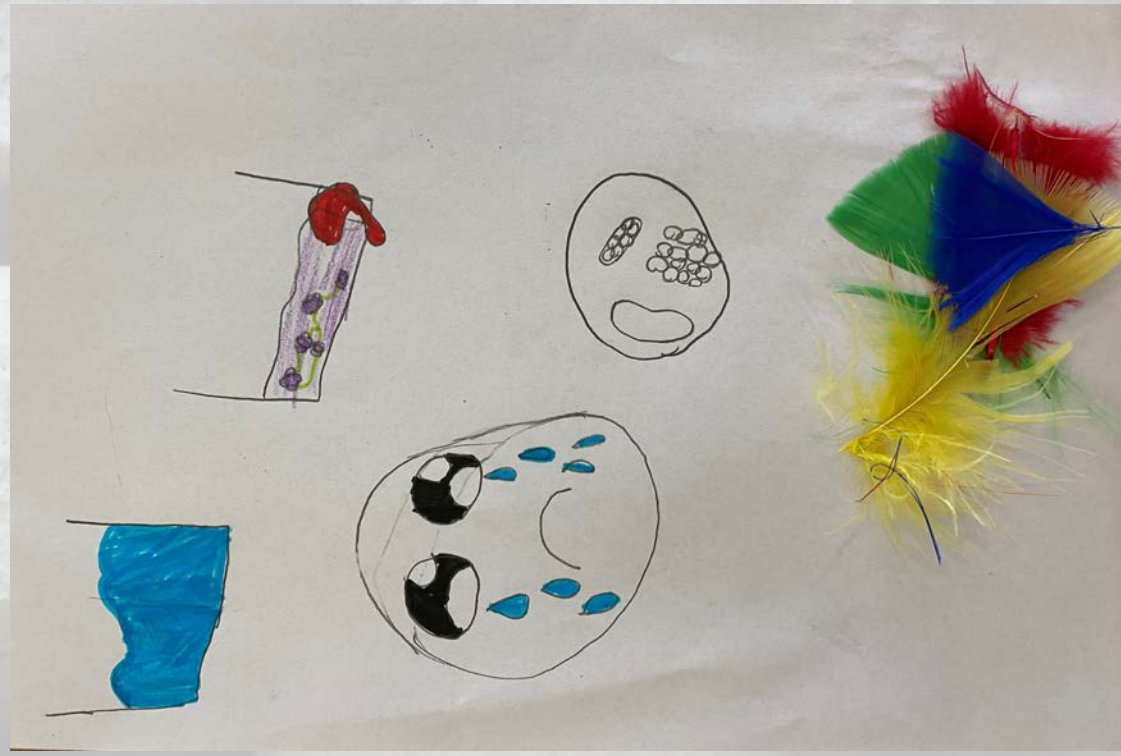




**I was sad not to see friends.**  
AFTER LOCKDOWN, I AM GOOD AT SCIENCE AND BRILLIANT AT MATHS.



**I LIKE SCHOOL WITH LOTS OF KIDS BETTER.**



**Covid and the fires: the year was colourful.**  
MY MUM HELPED ME BECOME MORE CONFIDENT.



**Home learning was hard.**  
I LIKED PLAYING OUTSIDE WITH MY DOGS.



**Lockdown was boring and fun.**  
MY BIG BROTHER AND SISTER HELPED ME.



**I played in the garden with my siblings and cousins.**



**Cooking with mum: it's science and maths!**  
DAD HELPED WITH A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT.



**Home school - it felt easier to ask for help and do work.**  
I LEARNED THAT I CAN ADJUST EASILY.



**I loved doing more things with my mum.**  
I FOUND OUT I LIKED PAINTING.

WE LOOKED UP LONG WORDS ON MUM'S PHONE.



**I WENT ON EXCURSIONS WITH MY DAD AND I WAS OUTSIDE WITH MY DOGS A LOT.**



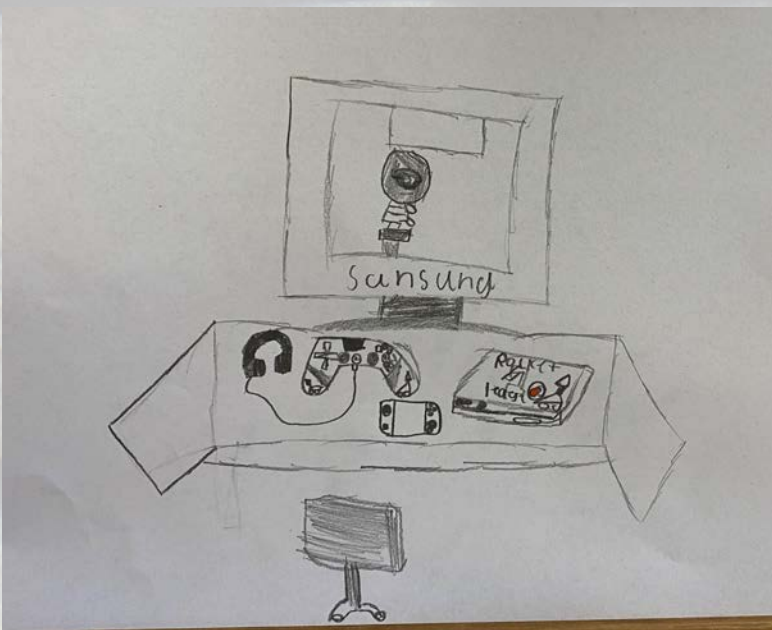
**I researched animals and now feel less scared of them.**  
I LEARNED THAT ANYONE CAN LEARN TO DO ANYTHING!



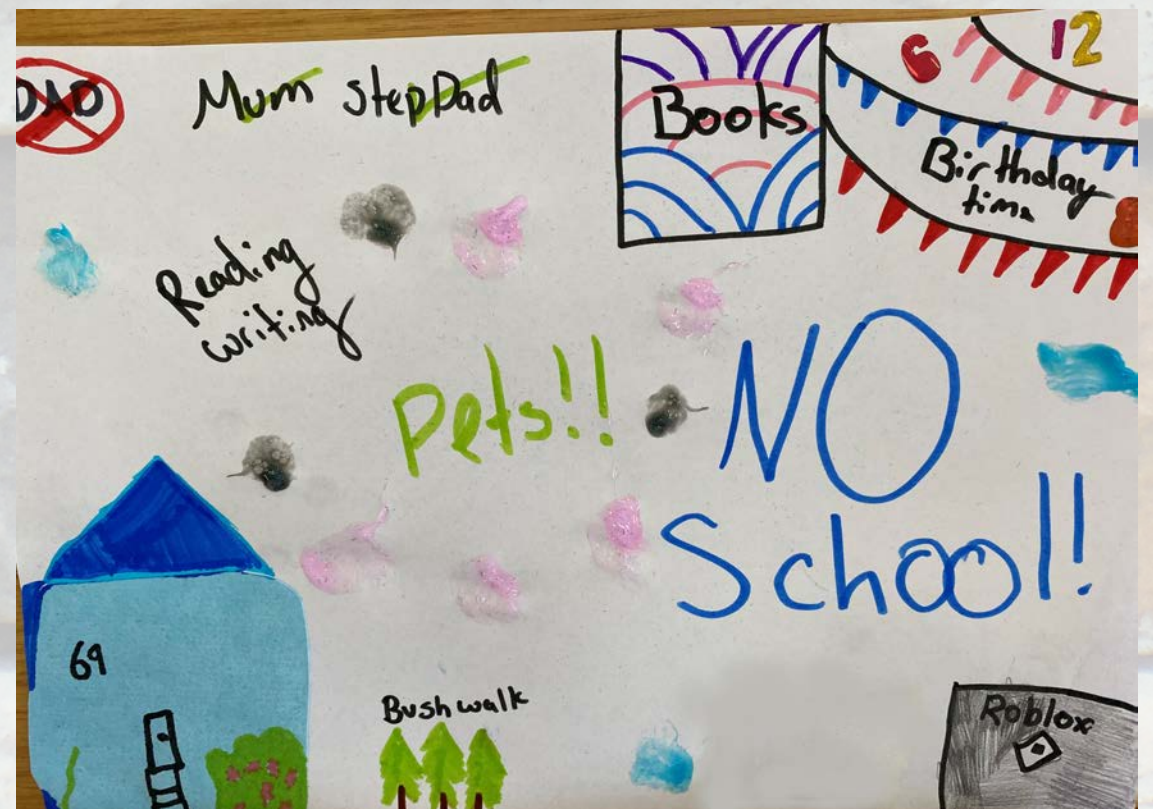
**Home school was like a holiday. At school I actually learn stuff.**



**Dad taught me origami.**  
I MADE COMICS WITH MY BROTHER.



**I got better at Rocket League.**  
I RODE MY BIKE ON THE BIG TRACK ALONE



**With my learning, I preferred starting easier and building up to the challenge.**



**No school: excited at first but then I missed it.**  
IT FELT DIFFERENT WITHOUT PEOPLE AROUND TAKING CHARGE.



**I learned how to do a cartwheel and then I taught my sister.**