



## Remote Reminiscence – Getting Elders Online

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### Theme #1 – Childhood

This is our first activity pack and this section looks at memories of childhood.

You can use this resource as a stand-alone series of activities or in conjunction with a short film available for free on our YouTube channel.

Why not have a look through and pick ideas to support activities with friends, family and in groups too.



The link for the accompanying film can be found at the end of this activity.



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- This section is all about Children and Childhood.
- We will cover some of the activities you can do to share memories about games you used to play, summer holidays and favourite toys in this section.
- The accompanying short film will also discuss Sunday Best, likes and dislikes, free time, and friendship to encourage friends and family to share memories.
- How to use tools and toys to trigger memories.

### Icebreaker Activity

- How different is childhood now to how it used to be?
- What can you share about your thoughts on those changes?

Figure 1: Car card game. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage



### Ideas for starters:

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Figure 2: Toy wooden boat made by Graham Benge. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage

- I. Think about the car you might have had when growing up: Did you collect toy cars, or did you dream of owning a particular car?
- II. Homemade toys: Did you make your own, or did someone make you toys from wood or metal? Perhaps you had a balsa wood boat.
- III. Did you make dolls clothes and cut out outfits from paper?
- IV. Bath toys: Did you have toys to play with in the bath?
- V. Were your toys homemade?



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### Memories

*"I didn't have close friends, I was doing my own thing, we were just in a group. I had one friend in Grammar school who was a scout leader and he arranged stuff for us to do. For example, Sherbourne Olympics – a good week's worth of events.*

*Two or three of us would decide to go to the pictures, or swimming. A game we would play – two or three of us would go off with a flag and plant it, then the others would have to find it.*

*We would play cowboys and cricket on St Helen's Green, people on the street would join in. We were playing in Benfield one day when we heard a splash and a scream, a kid had fallen in the cesspit. We got him out and he walked home in front of us. I remember his Mum washing him with him crying.*

*About teatime we wouldn't go far – we'd skip nearby. At weekends you would go out."*

**Trevor**



## Activity: Games you played:

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- Did you play: Marbles, jacks, skipping, *What's the time Mr Wolf?* Rounders?
- Who did you play those games with?
- What do you think are games which used to get played which don't now?
- What games are still played today? What do you think children still enjoy?
- Can you name any of the games and toys in the image below? Answers on the next page!





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1. Victorian Dress-Me Doll
2. Quality Street
3. Flash Light
4. Film Strips and Film Viewer
5. Marbles
6. Teddy Bear
7. Porcelain Doll
8. Books
9. Annuals
10. Comics
11. Matchstick Horse
12. Wooden Blocks
13. Plastic Animals
17. Wooden Boat
18. Butlin's Badges
19. Be-Ro Recipe Book



**CHILDHOOD TOYS**

Answers

### Activity: Favourite Toys & Teddies

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- Read this passage below out loud or to yourself.
- See if you can answer any of the questions following it.



Childhood Pastimes

### Teddy Bear

*'We all had teddy bears that were second-hand from a church fete. I had six siblings. My father worked in the pits and so my mother was a stay-at-home wife. She worked very hard to stretch my father's weekly pay packet out between us. We didn't mind having used toys, as we understood that it was all they could afford. Our local church, St. Mary's, often had bring and buy sales. They knew our family and us children would end up with bags of stuff for only a few pence. The ladies who ran the sales always seemed ancient to me. They always had their hair set and wore pristine white cotton blouses. I can remember how friendly they were and they would always give us all a free bag of toffees.'*





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- Did you have a special teddy bear?
- What did the teddy or doll look like?
- Did your teddy have a name?
- Did you take it everywhere with you?
- How did it feel? Soft, fluffy, rough, scratchy perhaps?



### Teddy Bear

1. Did you have a special teddy bear?
2. Did you have one that had a name?
3. What did the teddy look like?
4. Was it a doll if it wasn't a teddy?
5. Do you still have it now?
6. Did you take it everywhere with you?





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Figure 3: Noughts and crosses' game. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage



Figure 4: Teddy and toys. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage

### Activity: Playing Shops

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- Did you play shops?
- What did you use for play money?
- Did you make your own play money? What kind did you use?
- How much pocket money did you get (if any!)?
- What could you buy with that if you did?



Figure 5: Toy Cash Till. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage

### Activity: Marbles

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- Did you play marbles?
- What kinds of marbles did you have?
- Did you play the game often?
- What were your favourite kind of marbles to play with?
- What do you remember about how you felt when you lost your marbles?
- Did you play them at home or at school?

Figure 6: Marbles. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage



### Activity: Toy Tea Parties

- Did you have toy tea parties?  
This is often a chance to practise being a 'grown up' for children.
- Did you have a tea set?
- What did it look like?
- What did you serve your 'guests'?
- Who came to the teas? Your favourite toys, friends, family?
- Did you play music?



Figure 7: Toy tea cup and saucers. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage



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Figure 8: Wooden rocket toy. Image taken by Summer Dean. Copyright - Strike a Light - Arts & Heritage



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### Visual Resources

Watch our short Childhood film here for more ideas and support: <https://youtu.be/kAWkS2MUQFI>

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