



Hi Mum, bye Dad; Klokhuis Masterclass, NTR, Netherlands

Hi Mum, Bye Dad

“What is it like to be a child of divorced parents during the corona crisis? Before the crisis, these children traveled with their suitcase between two houses, but is that still allowed? Within a special series of the NTR children’s program ‘Hi mum, bye dad’ presenter Tatum visits several children of the former series and asks them how they are doing in this special period. The news-shows mostly show the situation of adults, but how are the children doing? What is it like to be a child in this period?

Tatum talks with the children about the consequences of the corona crisis for them. They are not allowed to go to school. Are they still allowed to play with their friends? And more important, can they still visit both of their parents? Some of the children stay in one house and didn’t see the other parent for a while. How are these children dealing with the situation?”

Klokhuis Masterclass

“A few weeks ago, family life in the Netherlands turned upside down. Due to the outbreak of covid-19 children were suddenly homebound. Unable to go to school, see friends or practice sports and hobbies. In the meantime, their parents struggle to combine work and home-schooling. In reaction Het Klokhuis has initiated a series of online masterclasses, streaming live every school day. Klokhuis Masterclass invites children to do something active at home, getting instructions by a master in his or her field. Something fun, something exiting, maybe even something you never did before. By watching Klokhuis Masterclasses children learned to breakdance, make a platform game, draw Donald Duck, spot garden birds, and much more.

A set value in uncertain times:

During the school closures in the Netherlands (March 16th – May 1st), a new Klokhuis Masterclass was available every school day at 15.30, live on YouTube, all our social media outings and hetklokhuis.nl. Quickly, the masterclass became part of the daily family routine in The Netherlands. Het Klokhuis is an educational children’s programme on NTR Television (The Netherlands). The programme is aired five times a week. Het Klokhuis aims to teach kids between nine and thirteen years old as much as possible about the world they are growing up in. By watching Klokhuis Masterclasses children learned to breakdance, make a platform game, draw Donald Duck, spot garden birds, and much more. The masterclasses provided a positive, social activity connecting children from all over the country. This helped to widen the, currently limited, world of children as such for little while. We encouraged children to share their work with family and friends. Using the community on our website the masterclass became a way to do something together, during a time that otherwise felt quite lonely.

Masterclass Sign Language: In one of the first masterclasses sign interpreter Bianca van der Horst teaches presenter Pascal Tan how to use sign language. Both participate from home. As are the children, who join in to show what they have learned. Director Bart Meijer connects all streams while also joining the conversation every now and then. In the masterclass Bianca shows several signs and tells more about the origin and use of sign language. She also invites Pascal and the children to come up with an original name-sign.

Making most out of the situation: The Masterclass Sign Language was perceived with much enthusiasm. Particularly because sign language has been in the centre of attention in the Netherlands over the past few weeks. The outbreak of covid-19 is the first crisis in which all Dutch press conferences are translated by a sign interpreter. Resulting in many funny moments, for example when the sign interpreter explained 'hoarding' as shown below. This caused for the interest in sign language to rise. Sign interpreter Irma Sluis translating the word 'hoarding' as said by the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport. Some masterclasses taught skills particularly useful in this time. Such as braiding impossible quarantine hair. Other masterclasses provided distraction. Like dancing, or painting a still life. In one of the masterclasses artist Leon Keer shows how to draw a 3D-birthday cake on the pavement. During social distancing this is an original way to celebrate the birthday of a friend or family member from a distance. You can draw it outside of his/her window. With our self as cherry on the top."

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