



DISCOVER

Guidance for schools and organisations during COVID-19
September 2020
Version 1



During these uncertain and challenging times, we are committed more than ever to delivering the life-changing experiences *FIRST*® LEGO® League offers to young people.

Everyone at the IET, LEGO® Education and *FIRST*® are working hard to anticipate and navigate the uncertainties to ensure we'll be able to provide every participating team a valuable and enjoyable experience, regardless of learning environments and restrictions this season.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate that you will encounter unique challenges during the RePLAYSM and PLAYMAKERSSM season and we are here to provide support and guidance for navigating these scenarios. This guide provides a series of options to accommodate you in various scenarios this season and allow your children to continue to get the most out of their experience.

This guide is designed to provide suggestions and options, but it is intentionally not prescriptive; considerations for what is best for your local situation should be prioritised. Local health and safety regulations and guidance should precede any of the recommendations in this guide.

We would also like to emphasise that this guide will adapt and change as the global and national situation progresses.

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1. Sharing, storing and dividing materials

Sharing Materials

- **Follow Local Guidance**

It is recommended that you take guidance from your school or organisation as well as local health offices to determine the best practice for your area for handling shared materials. Whether you are working in class or year group bubbles, your school or organisation will have its own policy and recommendations regarding sharing equipment, so we suggest in the first instance you ensure you are following those guidelines.

- **Sanitising LEGO® Equipment**

Here are guidelines that you can use in addition to any guidance you've been provided by your local health officials to clean and disinfect your classroom and learning materials: [LEGO® Education Hygiene Guide](#).

Storing Materials

Consider creating a plan that follows policies put in place by your local authority, school or organisation on how to store materials. Examples of potential ways to store them include:

- Recently cleaned materials can be kept in separate boxes with labels that can be changed to indicate the date of cleaning.
- Materials can be separated for use by individual/small groups of participants and stored in labelled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Use of equipment can be limited to one group/class of participants at a time and cleaned and disinfected between use.

Dividing Existing Materials

As the season progresses there will be many ideas and solutions for dividing up materials to learn from. Below are some details to consider as you begin putting together your individual plan using the resources available, cleaning protocols, and local health guidelines.

- What are cleaning procedures and local guidelines for handling materials?
- What materials can be shared with team members to continue or add-on to the build?
- What role can the teacher play to facilitate this plan or guide students in creating their team plans?

If your school or organisation advise against children sharing and handling materials, the activities in Discover can be adapted for more individual use.

Discover model

This season's themed model, the obstacle course, has three parts in the model. Each of these parts could be built separately by students and then brought together in a single model.

Six Bricks

There are enough Six Brick sets in the Discover set (one set for each child in a team) to complete various Six Bricks activities. The Discover More set is designed so that each student can have their own set at home. Consider using the Six Bricks sets as transitional activities between lessons, whether you're in school or setting them as home learning activities. There are more examples of Six Bricks activities students can try at home on our [YouTube channel](#).

STEAM park

You could consider dividing up the LEGO® STEAM Park sets to allow students to only use certain pieces during each session or use items/resources that are commonly found in the classroom.

Multiple classes

If you are running Discover across multiple classes, allow time to efficiently clean and dry the LEGO® elements in-between sharing with the next class – LEGO® Education hygiene guidance can be found above.

2. Adult and student collaboration

Accessing Experts Remotely

Having real life experts involved in the Discover sessions can be really inspirational for our budding engineers! There may be restrictions in your school or organisation meaning that outside visitors are not allowed on site, but you can still engage with experts virtually.

Theme experts can be found and engaged through social media channels or you might be able to arrange a 'virtual' visit. Utilising a topic-specific hashtag can help filter responses. For example, search for the hashtag **#shapedbyplay** using a hashtag search engine, you will find tagged posts over multiple platforms from designers, architects and companies who are talking about play spaces.

Don't overlook the experts from your own school or community. Your school's physical education instructor, representatives from a local sports team or the designer of a local playground may all be interested and willing to talk to your students via webinar or virtual meeting. Make sure any expert you engage understands the age level of the students on your team.

3. Community engagement

LEGO Education Community

The LEGO Education Community are a passionate group of educators from around the world who believe that play and exploration build successful life-long learners. The community strive to do their best work every day so that students can explore, learn and challenge themselves without barriers.

The community mission is to support and learn from one another, to find inspiration and to connect with our peers.

Click [here](#) to find out more and join the LEGO Education Community.

4. Events

Celebration Event

The final session of the Discover programme is the Celebration Event, where parents/carers are invited in to see the children's ideas and final designs. As mentioned above, it's important that you follow local health and safety regulations and guidance, as well as school or organisation policy, about outside visitors or parents/carers coming onto site.

If parents/carers are not permitted onto site to attend the Celebration Event, you could try a virtual 'hybrid' event, if your school or organisation policy allows. Parents/carers could join the Celebration Event via a virtual meeting platform and view the children's work that way, ensuring school or organisation safeguarding policies are adhered to.

If your school or organisation policy does not allow video conferencing, then you could take photos/videos from the event to post on the school or organisation website or social media platforms, again following safeguarding policies, for parents/carers to view after the event.

If you have any questions about any of the advice above, please contact us at FLLDiscover@theiet.org.