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How has your life changed during the pandemic?

I have two kids, my daughter is 6.5 years old and my son is 3 years old. I was in school last semester and I finished my studying. I was looking for a job but unfortunately, because of this situation my kids are home and my husband is working—he is an essential worker—I have to stay home with two kids. Both of my kids really love the library and spend a lot of time at the library. Last summer my son went to the library everyday, sometimes twice a day during the morning and afternoon. He is like a bookworm [laughs]. For his age, it's amazing how much he loves books. We borrowed some books before the libraries closed but for them it is hard right now. They said, “Okay, we want to change our books, we want to read more books.” I had to tell them that because of COVID-19 everybody is closed.

We have been home for three months. Right now, we are home and sometimes we go out for bicycle rides. We live in the condo and we don't have a backyard, so the kids have to stay at home. I have to help my daughter, who is in Gr. 1, with her studying. And that's it. This is the situation we are in. It looks like for the next three months I have to stay home with them as well because daycares and schools are closed. I couldn't go to find a job and I do not know what will happen in the future.

How are you keeping your kids busy?

I found some websites from the school board to get books for kids. I use that website for my daughter and my son. They do some crafts with me

and some puzzles. Unfortunately, their daily screen time is now more than usual. Before they used to watch TV just for half an hour a day and now they watch TV for two to three hours a day. I am not happy with this, but there is no choice for us. They try to do some physical activities at home, but because we live in a small condo it's not really possible. We go out for runs and bike rides.

What about yourself? How are you feeling about having to stay home?

I'm not really happy right now, but there is no choice. I am maybe thinking about going back to school again and continuing my studying. I know that after this time, it will be hard to find a job. Sometimes, I feel depressed at home [laughs]. But I try to do activities for myself and be up to date with my studying. I finished my bookkeeping program and there is an online program that I'm trying to do. I am not really successful with it because I do not have enough time. I want to do it, but it's impossible for me. Most of the time during the day, I spend time with my kids. My husband goes to work from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and after that he can look after the kids for an hour and I can do something for myself.