

# Letters to the Library



**Describe yourself in a sentence or two, for example your age and occupation (or, if you do not have one, what you like to do). What is your household like?**

I am a 36-year-old stay-at-home mom and freelance editor. My husband and I have a son who is four and daughter who is two.

**What is your day to day routine like now? What has changed? What has not changed?**

I try to structure our days around distance-learning activities from my son's preschool, with plenty of time for play, meals, snacks, books, and going for walks or bike rides outside. My husband works from home full-time, and often spends his breaks building Legos with the kids. The biggest change is that we're all home, all the time now.

**What precautions have you taken against the virus? How have you prepared? Were there any difficulties (shortages, high prices etc.)?**

We avoid public spaces except for the grocery and hardware stores. My husband and I probably each go out once a week to run an errand. We wear masks, which is mandatory now anyway, and gloves when shopping.

**What have been the biggest challenges for you during this time?**

The hardest thing is feeling trapped at home. Our days used to be structured around going out to activities such as school, gymnastics, library story times, and swim lessons, and plenty of trips to the library, kids' museums, and playgrounds. While the kids have adapted to a narrower range of activities and places, I struggle with cabin fever and an uneasy boredom.

## **How have you stayed busy?**

Staying busy and interested in daily life has been one of the biggest challenges. Engaging the kids in school activities has helped add structure to our days. I've also been doing lots of baking and listening to lots of podcasts.

## **Have there been any positives to this situation?**

It's nice to have our family all together all the time. The kids are wonderful playmates, and they love having their dad around. I like that my husband doesn't have to commute to work. We've gone on some lovely hikes on warmer days. I'm lucky not to be working full-time, so we don't have the added stress of full-time childcare in addition to two parents each working forty hours a week.

## **What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?**

Wallingford Public Library -- hands down. We spent so much time there playing, discovering new books, and attending preschool and toddler story times. I also miss playgrounds and the YMCA, where I enjoyed swimming laps.

## **How have you stayed social while social distancing?**

Lots of family Zoom meetings.

## **What is the first thing you are doing when things go back to normal?**

I'm going to take the kids to a playground! And then to the library for new books. And then I'll get up early the next morning to swim laps at the Y.

**How did you celebrate the Holidays? Did you see family in person, digitally, or not at all?**

We haven't celebrated a holiday since the shelter-in-place policy went into effect. For summer holidays, we might try to meet my dad for a hike and keep our distance. If social distancing continues through Thanksgiving and Christmas, I have a feeling we will be making toasts via Zoom.

**How will you be celebrating Wallingford's 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee? If you were here for the 325th Jubilee, do you have any memories you would like to share?**

We don't have plans. I imagine it won't feel much like a community celebration if the community can't safely gather.

**What do you miss most about the Wallingford Public Library? What is the first thing you will be doing when you can come back into the building?**

I miss the books and taking the kids there to play. I can't wait to pick out new books for my kids and for myself.