



my pal, luke

## --My Pal, Luke Press Release--

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## A Virtual Comfort Dog for the COVID-19 Era

*My Pal, Luke* features a virtual, talking comfort dog who promotes social emotional learning through his words and questions, including a “feelings” check-in with young children. Luke reads his favorite books with kids and educates them on how to make sense of current events.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting stay-at-home orders, school and youth program closures and distance learning have been very difficult for young people. This is the perfect time for caregivers, including parents, educators or youth program workers, to promote social emotional learning in response to the negative impacts of these events.

One-way caregivers have eased children’s stress are with visits from a comfort dog. However, COVID-19 restrictions have made it impossible to schedule such visits. Thus, we are working to create videos with a comfort dog that young people can access online. ***My Pal, Luke* is available for free to youth programs, educators, as well as parents and other caregivers.**

We have produced several episodes of *My Pal, Luke* and tips for caregivers on how best to use this resource. We are also accepting donations to support this project on [Go Fund Me Charity](#). For more information and updates on the project, check out the *My Pal, Luke* Instagram page ([@mypalluke](#)). To view episodes, click [here](#) or search *My Pal, Luke* on Youtube.

**About:** [The How Kids Learn Foundation](#) is an Oakland based, 501(c)(3) organization. It is dedicated to improving the effectiveness of settings that support the education and healthy development of youth. This includes schools and out-of-school time programs.

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