The background is a purple surface covered with various items and sticky notes. There are several small jars, some with lids, and many rectangular sticky notes of different colors (white, pink, orange, brown, blue). Some of the sticky notes have handwritten text: 'DIRECTIONS', 'SOCKS', 'PLANS', 'KEYS', 'REOTES', 'DIRC', and 'SO'. In the center, there is a large light blue circle containing the title 'Matilda + Theo' in a cursive font. 'Matilda' is in purple, '+', 'Theo' is in yellow, and there is a green plus sign between them.

Matilda + Theo

Looking after our
Lost and Found Things
in the time of Coronavirus



Australian
Childhood
Foundation

childhood.org.au
illustrated by Jess Racklyeft

There is a place where many of our lost things go. It is run by a lady called Matilda. Matilda is kind and hardworking and very thoughtful. She takes in things that we lose and she cares for them. She has a big building to keep everything safe. Inside it is warm and extremely tidy, with lots of shelves holding labelled boxes, tubs, and jars.



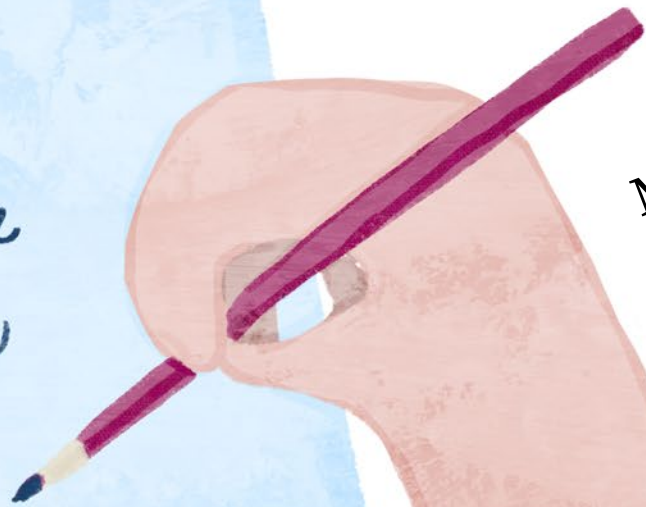
Here are some examples of the things that Matilda keeps:

Lost socks, lost toys, lost lunchboxes,
lost homework, lost tv remotes, lost keys,
lost love, lost plans, lost directions.

Matilda carefully writes down everything that is lost and she keeps track of it. She understands that mostly when people lose things it is very sad and hard for them. It hurts their hearts. She feels sad for people's hurt hearts and this makes her even more careful about looking after the things that have been lost.



ground
school
much time
the school
friends



Matilda has found herself extra busy at the moment. Many things that are not usually part of her collection are arriving. After asking around, she has worked out that the coronavirus is the culprit. It is causing more lost things than usual.

For example, Lost playdates, lost visits to nannas and pas, lost school days, lost trips to the playground, lost celebrations, lost swimming lessons, lost footy games, lost milkshakes at the café, lost barbeques, and lost holidays away.

Have you lost anything lately due to the coronavirus? There might be some things that you don't mind losing, but there will also be other things that you are sad about losing. Matilda wants you to know that it is ok to feel sad about these lost things. It is a very hard time for many people right now.





Matilda has a brother called Theo. They live together and he runs the *Found Things Delivery Service* from one half of the giant warehouse they share. Matilda and Theo are very close. They have lamingtons and a big pot of tea each day at 11.30.

Like Matilda, Theo is very organised. His half of the warehouse stores things ready to be found. He has hundreds of delivery vans that transport found things to people all the time.

He delivers things like birthday presents, jokes, new friends, adventures, sunny days, sports premierships, surprises, courage, and smiles from kind strangers on trains.



Like Matilda, Theo is finding his business has also changed due to the coronavirus. He has noticed a run on some things that have been on the shelf for a while like: Extra time with family, board games, indoor exercise, cloud watching, walks, cooking at home, family bike rides, craft, books, backyard fun, garden- ing, music, ball games, watching sunsets.



People seem to be really enjoying finding some of these things together, and Theo is wrapped to clear out so much old stock.

Have you found anything new or different with your family since the coronavirus has been around? Anything that has surprised you or felt good or fun or new to learn?



Matilda and Theo have been talking about all the extra lost things that have arrived since the coronavirus. Together they are going to put in a big order for important things that need to be found again, like:

- ✓ Going to the playground
- ✓ Going to school
- ✓ Lunch Time with School friends
- ✓ Footy practice
- ✓ Netball Games
- ✓ Play dates
- ✓ Going shopping
- ✓ Swimming at the pool
- ✓ Birthday parties

The coronavirus has interrupted supplies of these things, but Matilda and Theo want you to know that now they are written on the order form Theo will get back to delivering them to you as quickly as he can when the coronavirus has passed.