

Summary of National Response to COVID-19 and Continuity of Education for Early Years

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General Guidance

Student Support: Early Childhood

- Connect with each of your students every week -via video chat, Zoom, or phone calls
- Establish “office hours” for communication with families -this will be a consistent time you are available to answer questions and provide guidance. Family communication is critical to your students’ success
- Provide resources/directions for caretaker for all activities. (It may be older siblings helping with instruction)
- Make kits with hands-on materials to have families pick up/be delivered (weekly or biweekly)
- Help families create predictable routines for learning -share recommendations for minutes of each activity that families can easily accomplish
- Establish a timeline to complete work with caregivers (Examples: weekly check-ins with each family, open-ended discussion with the child, have parents take pictures of work and submit through app/email, weekly or daily challenges to showcase learning, etc.)
- Emphasize the importance of daily reading with your children
- Work with families to create a predictable routine each day for learning and play, in whatever time frame works best for each family.

Early Childhood: Opportunities for Voice and Choice

- Help parents understand what this looks like in the classroom, and how that translates to the home setting.
- Provide guidance in how to follow their child’s lead, and what success with continuous learning looks like.
- Provide prompt questions/video sources for families to use during play and reading that encourage critical thinking. (Examples: “Tell me about what you are drawing.” “What made you think of that?” “How could you...”)
- Share what you do in your classroom that could work at home (use resources your students are familiar with)

Options for Schools Without Digital Learning for Families

- Create project packs for students in need of supplies (paper, pencils, consumable manipulatives or supplies).
- Distribute fitness calendar/art prompts to give a broad menu of options using little to no home equipment.
- Create a document with familiar songs for students to sing at home
- Create a list of projects/skills that can be completed to meet required competencies
- Offer activities related to relaxation and mindfulness strategies. These days can be very overwhelming and uncertain for young children and their caregivers.
 - [Calm Down Yoga for Kids](#)
 - [Mindfulness Meditation for Kids Guided Video](#)
 - [Yoga for Kids](#)

Student Support: Pre-K

Daily Learning Time: 30 minutes of direct instruction

Daily Learning time can include:

5-minute increments

Hands-on activities between instruction

- imaginative play
- creative arts
- music and movement
- outdoor exploration
- Exercise
- fine/gross motor activities

Sample Schedule

- 5 minutes: Daily Routines/Traditions (review daily schedule, engage in connection activities, review the calendar/date, etc. Teachers can provide ideas that overlap with familiar school routines)
- 5 minutes: Story Time (video from teacher or read to by caregiver)
- 5 minutes: Brain Break (music and movement, ideas provided by teacher)
- 5 minutes: Introduce new content (video from teacher or instructed by caregiver)
- 10 minutes: Hands-on activity related to content or story (activities provided by teacher)

Extra Suggestions for Extending Learning

- 30-60 minutes of outdoor play
- 10-20 minutes of reading with family (books of their choice)
- 90+ minutes of imaginative play

General National Resources

- [American Academy of Pediatrics, Healthy Futures: Managing Infectious Diseases in Early Education and Child Care Settings](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics, Preparing Child Care Programs for Pandemic Influenza](#)
- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\), Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [COVID-19 and P3](#)
- [Disinfecting facilities](#)
- [General Website for Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- [Guidance for Child Care Programs Staying Open](#)

Focus: Create

- [10 Favorite Art Activities for Kids](#)
- [14 Easy Recipes for Cooking with Kids](#)
- [50 Fun Activities for Kids](#)
- [Writing Prompts for Elementary School Students](#)

Focus: Internet Safety

- [Online Safety Tips for Children, Teens, and Help for Adults](#)

Focus: Math Resources

- [70 ideas for activities to do at home with kids in Spanish \(Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors\)](#)
- [A Parent's Guide to Virtual Learning: 4 Actions to Improve Your Child's Experience with Online Learning](#)
- [Blog featuring Math activities \(DREME Network\)](#)
- [Cabin Fever Math \(Bedtime Math\)](#)
- [COOLMATH](#)
- [COVID-19 Youth Services Resources](#)
- [Early Childhood Free Digital Tools for Instruction](#)
- [Five Early Childhood Family Activities](#)
- [Math at Home Toolkit \(NAEYC, EDC, Bedtime Math\)](#)
- [Math Games for Early Math Development \(Erikson Institute\)](#)
- [Ms. Money at Home](#)
- [NYCDOE Early Childhood Learning at Home Resources](#)
- [Pre-Kindergarten: Distance Learning for All](#)
- [Young Mathematicians \(Education Development Center\)](#)
- [Zeno Math Toolbox \(Zeno Math\)](#)

Focus: Play

- [10 Online Exercise & Yoga Kid Classes to Make Up for P.E.](#)
- [20 Fun Indoor Games to Keep Kids Entertained](#)
- [25 Surefire Indoor Play Ideas from a Preschool Teacher's Bag of Tricks](#)
- [A Guide for Fun Inside Series: Week 1, Week 2, Week 3, Week 4](#)
- [Boston Children's Museum - 100 Ways to Play](#)
- [Indoor Activities for You and Your Preschooler](#)
- [Indoor Activities for You and Your Toddler](#)
- [Virtual Playgroup from Valuing Our Children](#)

Focus: Social-Emotional Support

- [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel \(U.S. Department of Education\)](#)
- [Conversation Starters for Families](#)
- [Journaling Prompts for Self-Reflection and Self-Discovery](#)
- [Professional Support Series for Families](#)
- [Social-Emotional Learning Games to Play with Your Child](#)

Focus: Support at Home Learning

- ["Talk, Read, Sing" Indoor Activities Kit \(Talking is Teaching\)](#)
- [101 Activities to do with Toddlers & Preschoolers at Home \(Paper Pinecone\)](#)
- [9 Indoor Activities for Hyperactive Kids \(Understood\)](#)
- [ABCya](#)

- [BBC HISTORY FOR KIDS](#)
- [BRAIN POP](#)
- [Caring for Each Other](#) (Sesame Street)
- [Colorin Colorado](#)
- [Daily Schedules and Activities](#) (Teaching Strategies)
- [DISNEY JR.](#)
- [Dr. Zeynep Isik-Ercan, Survive and thrive with your young children \(Ages 4–10\) at home](#)
- [Early Childhood Learn at Home](#) (New York City, Department of Education)
- [A parent’s guide to surviving COVID-19: 8 strategies to keep children healthy and happy](#) (Early Learning Nation)
- [EIE Families](#) (Boston Museum of Science)
- [Family Play Plans](#) (TRUCE)
- [Free Lesson Plans and Printables](#) (Lakeshore Learning)
- [Free Stories for Kids from Audible](#)
- [FUN BRAIN](#)
- [Games, Videos, Brain Boosters and More](#) (National Geographic Kids)
- [Caring for Preschoolers at Home](#) (Harvard Graduate School of Education)
- [Healthy at Home Toolkit](#) (Ready Rosie)
- [HIGHLIGHTS FOR KIDS](#)
- [Homer](#)
- [HOW STUFF WORKS](#)
- [Important Information for Learning at Home:](#)
 - [Family Guide for Student Success](#) (English)
 - [Family Guide for Student Success](#) (Spanish)
 - [Read-at-Home Plan](#) (Printer friendly version)
- [Khan Academy Kids](#) (Khan Academy)
- [Learn at Home](#) (Scholastic)
- [Learning at Home: Pre-K Collection](#) (AFT)
- [Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems](#) (The Kennedy Center)
- [NASA Kids’ Club](#)
- [New Jersey Association of School Librarians, Tools and Resources for Remote Instruction](#)
- [New: Resources for At-Home Learning](#) (Boston Public Schools, Department of Early Learning)
- [NICK JR](#)
- [Noggin Cares Resources](#) (Nickelodeon)
- [Olaf from ‘Frozen’ Will Read Books to Your Kids on Twitter](#)
- [Play Activities for 12 to 24 Months](#) (ZERO TO THREE)
- [Preschool Learning at Home](#) (PBS Kids)
- [SCRATCH MIT](#)
- [SIGHT WORDS](#)
- [Skybrary](#) (Reading is Fundamental)
- [Smithsonian, Fun Stuff for Kids Online](#)
- [Story Line, children’s literacy site](#)
- [Stuck at home with young kids due to the coronavirus? Here’s what to do—and not to do](#) (The Hechinger Report)
- [Tinkergarten At Home](#) (Tinkergarten)

- [Vroom](#) (Bezos Family Foundation)
- [WGBH Educational Foundation - Resources for Early Learning](#)
- WIDA [Learning Language Every Day: Activities for Families](#) (Arabic)
- WIDA [Learning Language Every Day: Activities for Families](#) (English)
- WIDA [Learning Language Every Day: Activities for Families](#) (Simplified Chinese)
- WIDA [Learning Language Every Day: Activities for Families](#) (Spanish)

Focus: Talking to Children

- [How to Talk to Kids about Coronavirus](#) (New York Times Parenting)
- [How to Talk to Your Kids about Coronavirus](#) (PBS)
- [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#) (Bright Horizons)
- [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\): A Parent Resource](#) (National Association of School Psychologists)
- [The Power of Storytelling in Early Childhood: Helping Children Process the Coronavirus Crisis](#) (NAEYC)

Focus: Technology

- [A Conversation with Dr. Marina Bers about Young Learners, Technology and Learning at Home](#) (Hosted by the ISTE Early Learning Network)
- [An Educator's Guide to Virtual Learning: 4 Actions to Support Students with Disabilities and Their Families](#)
- [Checklists on Integrating Technology](#) (Education Development Center)
- Discussion from HELLO where [educators share ideas for active learning while programs are closed](#)
- [Early Learning and Educational Technology Policy Brief](#) (U.S. Department of Education)
- [Making Videos at Home: Tips for Educators](#) (NAEYC)
- [Online Education Is Difficult for the Littlest Learners. Here's Some Help for School Leaders, Teachers and Families](#)
- [Technology and Media: Guidance from NAEYC's Position Statement with resources](#)
- [Transitioning to Online Learning: What You Need to Know](#) (ASCD)

Focus: Virtual Field Trips

- [12 Virtual Museum Tours You Can Take on Your Couch](#)
- [20 Virtual Field Trips to Take with Your Kids](#) (Adventures in Familyhood)
- [25 Amazing Virtual Field Trips for Kids - Spring 2020](#) (We Are Teachers)
- [Cincinnati Zoo Home Safari](#)
- [Farm Food 360°](#) (Farm and Food Care Ontario)
- [Here's 33 National Park Tours You Can Take Virtually from the Comfort of Your Home](#)
- [Over 30 Virtual Field Trips](#)

Pre-K to Grade 1 At-Home Resources for Families

Focus: Screen-Free Activities

- [Atlanta Speech School Online Preschool](#)
- [CoxCampus](#)
- [Fun Fonix](#)
- [Great Schools Prek - 1st Grade Toolkits](#)
- [Kindergarten & 1st Grade Activities \(English and Spanish\)](#)
- [Pre-Kindergarten - 1st Grade Leveled Reading Passages](#)
- [Pre-Kindergarten Activities \(English and Spanish\)](#)

Focus: Digital Lessons

- [World Book Online Resources](#)

Focus: Music and Movement

- [GoNoodle for Families](#)
- [Good Energy at Home](#)
- [Move to Learn](#)

Focus: Virtual Library Resources

- [Follett Lightbox](#)
- [Open Library](#)
- [Storyline Online](#)
- [Wilbooks Online Books](#)