

Virtual Learning Guidance: Pre-kindergartener through third grade

Typically, online learning is not the most effective option for our youngest students; however, during this unprecedented time, it is the only option for staying connected with our youngest learners and their families.

Online learning should:

- maintain and enhance relationships between schools and families,
- support families as their child's first teachers,
- respect family's and student's unique needs during this time,
- maintain and enhance learning that happens anywhere,
- be available to all families and learners (to every extent possible),
- focus on critical learning standards across multiple content areas (cross curricular),
- focus on student progress and learning,
- use online tools the students are already familiar with, and
- address various learning styles.

Online learning should not:

- place undue burden (financial, stress) on families or programs,
- look the same for every family,
- perpetuate inequities,
- mimic typical school settings, or
- focus on assignment completion and due dates.

Things to consider when planning and implementing online learning include:

- family stress during this unprecedented time,
- technology access and availability,
- family schedules (are family members working from home; what is their availability to interact and monitor their child's online learning experiences),
- multi-age learning (multi children of varying ages in the home setting), and
- teachers' experience and competency creating virtual learning opportunities.

Recommendations:

- Connect with each of your students every week.
- Establish virtual office hours for communication with families.
- Provide resources/directions for all activities; including prompts for families to use with their children
- Guidelines MAXIMUM student commitment each day are as follows:
Pre-K: 30 minutes Grades K-1: 45 minutes Grades 2-3: 60 minutes

Resources

National P-3 Center At-Home Teaching and Learning in PreK-3rd Grade: nationalp-3center.org/resources/at-home-teaching-and-learning-in-prek-3rd-grade/

This document provides specific guidance related to school districts' and elementary schools' supports for at-home learning across the primary grades (PreK-3rd grade). This is not a compilation of e-resources. Rather, this document provides guidance about how to best support at-home learning, focusing on two fundamentals of effective teaching and learning in the early grades: child development and equity. This resource will be updated, as we gather more wisdom from practitioners in the field.

Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood: www.pakeys.org/pa-early-learning-initiatives/early-learning-standards

Booklets divided by age/grade spans that provide information on what children should be able to know and do. Of interest is the supportive practices provided for each standard that adults can use to help children meet age appropriate learning standards.

PA Promise for Children Resources for Learning: papromiseforchildren.com/help-them-learn/learn-through-play

Website that provides resources for families to engage in activities at home with their children.

Kindergarten, Here I Come Activity Guide: papromiseforchildren.com/kindergarten-here-i-come

Activities for pre-kindergarten children to prepare them for kindergarten. The activities can be used by families to engage in activities at home with their children.

Kindergarten, Here I Am Activity Guide: papromiseforchildren.com/kindergarten-here-i-am

Activities for kindergarten children. The activities can be used by families to engage in activities at home with their children.

Recipes for Readiness Activity Cards: papromiseforchildren.com/recipes-for-readiness-developing-the-right-skills/

Activities for pre-kindergarten children to prepare them for kindergarten. The activities can be used by families to engage in activities at home with their children.

Math at Home (NAEYC) www.naeyc.org/math-at-home

Website that provides resources to assist families to engage in math related activities at home with their children. The site provides multiple resources and activities.

Colorin Colorado: www.colorincolorado.org/families

Website that can assist families in supporting the learning and development of children who are dual language learners.