Hello Community Parents,

We’ve combined a list of resources and things to help keep your kids busy at home while schools are closed. The first half is online options and the second half is off-screen ideas. Share & enjoy!

**Online Options**

These zoos and aquariums are live streaming animals and offering at home educational activities for kids!


Scholastic is offering free online courses PreK-9th grade so your kids can keep learning while schools are closed.

https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html

BrainPOP makes any room a classroom, with topics including: science, social studies, English, math, arts & music, health, engineering & tech and new & trending topics.

https://www.brainpop.com/

Mystery Science is offering online mini & full lessons for grades K-5th grade.

https://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning

Illuminations (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) has over 700 lesson plans, over 100 activities, 13 Calculation Nation games, 7 mobile apps, and a Bright Ideas e-newsletter to increase access to quality based resources for teaching and leaning math.

https://illuminations.nctm.org/Lessons-Activities.aspx

Math.com offers games, resources, homework, and more.

http://www.math.com/

Fun Zone offers activities, games, and more to K-8th grade.

https://www.funbrain.com/grade/1

National Geographic Kids lets kids explore, learn, and play.

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/

Farm Food 360 offers 11 virtual tours of pig, cow, sheep, grain, apple, egg and more!


Discovery Education is offering virtual field trips!

https://www.discoveryeducation.com/community/virtual-field-trips
Fuel the Brain provides free resources:
https://www.fuelthebrain.com/

Highlights for Kids offers recipes, fun crafts, jokes, and more!
https://www.highlightskids.com/

30-Day Lego Challenge (see calendar attached)

Learn how to draw with Art for Kids Hub.
https://www.youtube.com/user/ArtforKidsHub/videos

Watch astronaut Anne McClain read a story from space!
https://storytimefromspace.com/

Off-Screen Options

**Idea Box** – Brainstorm ideas with your children about what they can do to overcome boredom. Write down suggestions on slips of paper and place inside an empty box. Then, the next time they’re bored, have them pick out one of their own suggestions.

**Design a Treasure Hunt** – Hide something like a coin or sticker somewhere in the house. Give your kids a clue, and let them try to find it.

**House Scavenger Hunt (see below example)**
You don’t even need to make a whole list, you can just say, “Find me something that starts with the letter B” and let them search. Or you can create a list of specifics (paperclip, button, hat) or less specific for their creative minds (something smaller than a penny, something green, something you can eat, something round, etc.)

**Build a Fort** – Grab some pillows, blankets, chairs, and build a fort! No child will turn down the chance to make a secret base – and they’ll be much more likely to play independently once they’re inside.

**Make a Sculpture** – Give your child craft pieces (pipe cleaners, cotton balls, popsicle sticks, Styrofoam, etc.) and ask them to make a sculpture!

**Listen to an Audiobook** – If your child’s too young to read independently, pick an audio version of their favorite books. Let them sit down and turn the pages while listening to a friendly voice read to them. If you can’t find a recording, use your phone to make one yourself.
**Play Verbal Games** – Go back and forth taking turns rhyming, think of an animal for each letter of the alphabet, I Spy, or 20 questions.

**Grow Something!** Give your child a small plant to care for. Maybe they can grow an herb garden or a few flowers on a windowsill. Have them water their plant each day and check on them.

**Suggest a Science Experiment** – Let your kids discover the world. Teach or show them something about an object or their surroundings and let them explore it. That might mean giving them a magnet and telling them to find things around the house that stick, or giving them a bowl of water and prompting them to find things that float and sink.

**New Tools to Explore** – Handing a child a new tool can keep them occupied a pretty long time. Give your kids a flashlight, a lock & key, a digital camera, or a magnifying glass, and let them figure out it works for themselves.

**Cartoons** – Instead of watching cartoons, have your children make their own. Give them a piece of paper and some crayons, and ask them to draw you a hero and a bad guy. When they’re done, have them tell you their hero’s story.

**Let them help you** – If you’re cooking or cleaning, let them assist you. Give them a job they can handle. For young kids, that might be setting the table or slicing vegetables, the dishes, etc.

**Bird Feeder & Bird Watching (see below examples)**
Make a bird feeder using a pine cone, peanut butter and seeds (or other household items). Hang it somewhere in your backyard (out of reach from dogs), pull out a pair of binoculars if you have, and wait for the birds to visit!

**Roll a RAINBOW (see below example)**
Using the color key, try to roll a rainbow with a dice! Play competitively with others and see who can roll a rainbow first by taking turns.

**Paint Chip Poetry or Ice Cream Poetry (see below examples)**
Using paint chips or creating your own shade of colors, let your kids get creative with figurative language similes, metaphors, and onomatopoeia for each color to create poetry.

**K-W-L Charts (see attached)**
Each week let your child pick a topic they want to know more about and complete a K-W-L chart. The K column stands for what you already know about the topic, the W column stands for what you want to know about the topic, and the L column is where you share what you learned about the topic after research.
Make Waves Sensory Bottles (see below example)
Materials Needed: empty, clear, plastic bottle & cap, vegetable oil, water, blue food coloring
• Fill the bottle 2/3 full with water
• Add a few drops of food coloring
• Pour in oil (don't fill all the way to the top!)
• Screw cap on and roll the bottle on its side. Let it settle a few minutes. The water will sink to the bottom and the oil will rise to the top.
• Watch the waves get bigger at one end of the bottle and smaller on the other, like an ocean wave!
• Find fun pieces around your house to put inside and watch swim around (toys, legos, googley eyes, pompoms)

President or Sock Puppets & Show (see below examples)
Craft puppets from old socks and items around the house, or use the face on coins to create President puppets and then present a show!

Stone Painting (see below examples)
Find stones in your backyard and paint them! Get creative with spring on the way, making bumble bees, ladybugs, butterflies, and flowers.

Vocabulary Go Fish – Replace an old deck of cards with vocabulary words. Write in marker the vocabulary words in pairs, and then play a round of Go Fish. If you don’t have a deck of cards lying around, have your child make some using paper/markers/scissors.

Create your own board/game! Find a piece of cardboard or poster board around the house and let them design a game, cards, and pieces. Then spend time teaching and playing together.

Dental Health Experiment: Eggs & Soda
Materials Needed: 3 white-shelled hard boiled eggs, dark soda, dark diet soda, water, a toothbrush & toothpaste, 3 plastic cups
Before: Start by talking to your child about good dental health hygiene practices and how important it is to brush teeth everyday. Explain how certain foods, drinks, and activities can stain and damage teeth (soda, coffee, juice because of sugar and acid). Brainstorm alternatives together (milk & water).
• Boil eggs (a cracked shell will change results* redo if cracked)
• Fill each plastic cup – one with regular soda, one with diet soda, and one with water
• Once the eggs have cooled, put one in each cup and leave it overnight
• Check the eggs the next day (most likely, the eggs in the cola will be stained)
• Give your child a toothbrush and toothpaste to see if they can brush the stains off the eggshell
For variation, you can try more with a cup of juice, a cup of clear soda, and coffee for comparison.
**Laser Maze (see below example)**
Take some yarn or string and create a maze field in your house, stringing it from corner to corner and all around in height. Then let their imagination go – as secret agents trying to get through a laser maze without touching the yarn!

**Kid Friendly Cooking Recipes – Apple Chips**
Find a kid friendly baking or cooking recipe each week to try! Let them do as many of the tasks as possible to learn.

Materials Needed: Apples thinly sliced, white sugar and ground cinnamon
- Preheat oven to 225 degrees F
- Arrange sliced apples on a metal baking sheet
- Sprinkle sugar & cinnamon over apple slices
- Bake until apples are dried and edges curl up, 45 minutes to an hour.
- Transfer apple chips, let cool & enjoy!
**ROLL A RAINBOW**

Roll one die to try and roll all of the numbers in the rainbow. When you roll a color, cross it off. Die can only be used for one color per roll.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Odd Number</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>RED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ORANGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>YELLOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>GREEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>BLUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>PURPLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PINK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[WWW.PLAYPARTYPLAN.COM](http://WWW.PLAYPARTYPLAN.COM)
House Scavenger Hunt

Find something that begins with the letter “a”
Find something that is blue
Find something that is round
Find something that has wheels
Find something that begins with the letter “b”
Find something that is orange
Find something you can eat
Find something you can wear
Find something that begins with the letter “c”
Find something that is soft
Find something that floats
Find something that is smaller than a penny
Find something that begins with the letter “d”
Find something that is yellow
Find something that is sharp
Find a rubber band
Find something that begins with the letter “e”
Find a paperclip
Find a post-it
Find a battery
Find something that begins with the letter “f”
Find an American coin
Find a Non-American coin
Find a magazine
Find something that begins with the letter “g”
Orange is engy
patrick

Hot spice taco sauce.

A Tiger sitting in the shade

Tigger saying yippee!

Fire Island
Orange is an undiscovered soul
as rare as a crystal
as profound as a unicorn
like the sun yearning to break through the clouds.

Mustard Mango Mayonnaise Munch
Blueberry Butter Bacon Bites
Peppermint Pickle Pinwheel
Cabbage Cricket Crunch
Strawberry Salsa Swirl