



Children's Hospital Colorado

www.childrenscolorado.org

Learning at Home During COVID-19 school closures:

We find ourselves in an interesting time as parents, educators, and caregivers. We are all being inundated with information from teachers, Principals and social media about “homeschooling” and the need to keep kids learning, structured and practicing skills during time off or extended spring break. It is important to remember that each child, individual, family unit, and situation are unique and different and what works for some doesn't work for all.

As you know, children with disabilities and/or chronic medical needs are a unique category of learners already. Your child may receive extra support through an IEP or 504 plan at school. They may be on grade level or below. Adding the role of a teacher may come easily to some but may be overwhelming to others and a source of stress and anxiety in your house. Please remember that you need to make the right choice for your child even if the decision is suspending school entirely.

Few tips and tricks:

1. Provide some structure (picture schedule or words) and lots of breaks. Short periods of work with lots of breaks is often better than long work times with few breaks.
2. Provide an example of the final product and then give your child a short checklist of 1-3 steps to follow and refer to if they forget what they are supposed to do.
3. Keep it positive and fun, use stickers or star charts for listening and/or doing well and try to avoid punishing by taking things away if your child has trouble focusing or completing the work.
4. Chrome books have extended apps available to help your child like read/write software for example. Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/gchromeat/home/chrome-and-assistive-technology> for more info
5. Use timers and alarms on your phone or other smart device to help structure activities.

Below are some free resources for consideration:

1. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/you-can-virtually-tour-thousands-of-museums-for-free-right-now/ar-BB11h5Kr> (all ages and grade levels)
2. <https://www.3dbear.io/3dbear-free-access-education-coronavirus> (all ages and grade levels)
3. <https://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning#> (all ages and grade levels)
4. <https://www.squigglepark.com/> (all ages and grade levels)
5. <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html> (all ages and grade levels)
6. <http://wonderopolis.org/> (upper elementary and higher)
7. <https://www.ageoflearning.com/schools> (all ages and grade levels)
8. <https://read.activelylearn.com/#teacher/catalog> (all grade levels but great for middle school and up)
9. <https://www.albert.io/try-albert> (middle and high school)
10. <https://www.allkidsnetwork.com/> (all ages and grade level)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jodi Krause, MA CBIS, Clinical Learning Specialist
Brain Injury Education Coordinator
720-777-7465 or jodi.krause@childrenscolorado.org