



# Resources for Families

Families are staying at home with their children to keep them safe from the Coronavirus. Providing families additional activities and resources to help support their children's learning at home as well as provide some activities for entertainment will help make this time a pleasant experience for all.

## Activities for Families to Use with their Children

### **Stuck at Home? 20 Learning Activities to Keep Kids Busy:**

[https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/stuck-at-home-activities?\\_ul=1\\*1l4cwqk\\*domain\\_userid\\*YW1wLXZ1ZEZNDNCNXdXSTVYTnRneIRfQIE](https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/stuck-at-home-activities?_ul=1*1l4cwqk*domain_userid*YW1wLXZ1ZEZNDNCNXdXSTVYTnRneIRfQIE). (Understood.org has learning activities that are simple and fun for your child to try. These activities are free, except for the board games and some of the apps, and may even keep schools up while your child's school is closed.)

### **Scholastic Learn at Home:** <http://www.scholastic.com/learnathome>

(Scholastic's Learn at Home website: This free resource provides your children with 20 days of exciting articles and stories, videos, and fun learning challenges. Children can complete them anytime, in any order. They can work on their own or together with you and your family.)

**100 Activities to Do At Home During School Closures:** <https://entertainkisonadime.com/2020/03/13/100-activities-to-do-at-home-during-school-closures/> (This is a helpful guide to use during school closures. Many of these activities will require some supplies. Most items can be found at one of the different types of dollar stores.)

**Projects and Activities to Try at Home:** <https://www.communityplaythings.com/resources#> (Find creative activities to use at home with your children. Most activities use items commonly found at home.)

**Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems:** <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/> (Mo Willems invites YOU into his studio every day for his LUNCH DOODLE. Learners worldwide can draw, doodle and explore new ways of writing by visiting Mo's studio virtually once a day for the next few weeks. Grab some paper and pencils, pens, or crayons and join Mo to explore ways of writing and making together. New episodes will be posted each weekday at 1:00 p.m. ET and then remain online to be streamed afterwards. Check back each weekday for new LUNCH DOODLES!)

**Smithsonian Virtual Tours:** <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour> (The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History has virtual tours that allow families to take self-guided, room-by-room tours of select exhibits and areas within the museum from their desktop or mobile device. Families can access select research and collections areas at their satellite support and research stations and past exhibits no longer on display. Many of the tours provide a view of previously unseen archives or holdings.)

**Something Strange Happened in My City:** [https://fdafdaa5-78a3-4b52-a60c-bbc1ed5e8667.filesusr.com/ugd/d4e6d3\\_94633e79af82468b8adc6edcc362ea41.pdf](https://fdafdaa5-78a3-4b52-a60c-bbc1ed5e8667.filesusr.com/ugd/d4e6d3_94633e79af82468b8adc6edcc362ea41.pdf)  
(A social story about the coronavirus pandemic for children by Dr. Shu\_Chen Jenny Yen)

### **Healthy at Home: A Toolkit for Supporting Families Impacted by COVID-19:**

<https://readyrosie.com/en/healthyathome/#> (A free toolkit from Teaching Strategies that has bilingual content and activities to promote emotional well-being and learning at home.)

# Literacy Resources

- **Read Early and Often:** <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1833-read-early-and-often>
- **Seven Research- based Ways to Promote Early Literacy:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0zFbcsd4Vg&feature=youtu.be>
- **Making Room for Literacy:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmQJ1NFWn5g&feature=youtu.be>
- **Raising Readers: What Parents Can Do:** <https://www.readacrossamerica.org/raising-readers-what-parents-can-do/>
- **Talk, Read, and Sing Together Every Day!:** <https://talkingisteaching.org/resources/talk-read-sing-together-every-day-tips-families>
- **Starfall:** <https://www.starfall.com/h/>
- **Families Page for the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards:**  
<http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/families.html>
- **Reading Rockets’ When School is Closed: Resources to Keep Kids Learning at Home:**  
<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/when-school-closed-resources-keep-kids-learning-home> (Some schools and afterschool programs are closing in response to the coronavirus. If this is happening in your community, you may be looking for engaging ways to keep kids reading, writing, exploring, and learning at home. You will find lots of ideas to immerse kids in language and stories, build background knowledge, and inspire creative play.)
- **Reading Tips for Parents (in multiple languages):** <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-multiple-languages>
- **Helping Struggling Readers:** <https://www.readingrockets.org/helping>
- **Reading Videos by Topic:** <https://www.readingrockets.org/atoz/all/video>
- **Reading Aloud to Children:** <https://www.readingrockets.org/reading-topics/reading-aloud>
- **Early Literacy Development:** <https://www.readingrockets.org/atoz/1125/all>
- **Communication in Babies and Toddlers: Milestones, Delays and Screening:**  
<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/communication-babies-and-toddlers-milestones-delays-and-screening>
- **Home Literacy Environment Checklist:** <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/home-literacy-environment-checklist>
- **Growing Readers: Newsletter with Monthly Tips for Parents:**  
<https://www.readingrockets.org/newsletters/extras>
- **Reading Rockets’ Start with a Book:** <https://www.startwithabook.org/great-kids-books>
- **Helping Parents Develop Language and Literacy at Home:** [https://youtu.be/CleB0AEEq\\_A](https://youtu.be/CleB0AEEq_A)

The resources listed below will help families find tips on reading aloud to children and selecting books for children.

- **How to Choose Read Aloud Books:** <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-choose-read-aloud-books-babies-third-graders>
- **Why Reading Aloud to Kids Helps Them Thrive:** [https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/why-reading-aloud-to-kids-helps-them-thrive?gclid=Cj0KCQiApt\\_xBRDxARIsAAMUMu\\_g-zmjiAa15kleRAjTBstVyzNanOH6PCwyNIqhCWjQbm-M2DbzLdcaAm3vEALw\\_wcB](https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/why-reading-aloud-to-kids-helps-them-thrive?gclid=Cj0KCQiApt_xBRDxARIsAAMUMu_g-zmjiAa15kleRAjTBstVyzNanOH6PCwyNIqhCWjQbm-M2DbzLdcaAm3vEALw_wcB)
- **Read Aloud 15 Minutes:** <https://www.readaloud.org/>
- **Storyline Online** - Storyline Online is available 24 hours a day for children, parents, caregivers and educators worldwide. Each book includes supplemental curriculum developed by a credentialed elementary educator, aiming to strengthen comprehension and verbal and written skills for English-language learners: <https://www.storylineonline.net>
- **Bookfinder from Reading Rockets:** <https://www.readingrockets.org/bookfinder>
- **Raising Readers - What Parents Can Do:** <https://www.readacrossamerica.org/raising-readers-what-parents-can-do/>

## Additional Literacy Resources



[The Center for Early Literacy Learning \(CELL\)](#) has developed specific materials to assist parents in guiding their child's early literacy development through the use of fun and exciting literacy learning experiences. These materials are applicable to specific age groups. Parents may select infants, toddlers or preschoolers for each type of resource listed below:

- **Cellcasts:** CELLcasts are audio/visual versions of [CELL Parent Practice Guides](#). CELLcasts are available for parents to watch and listen to online or download to an iPod/Mp3 player.
- **CELL Videos:** Each video introduces and illustrates a key component of the CELL Early Literacy Learning Model. The videos are for use by Teachers and with Parents as indicated.
- **CELLpops and Posters:** The mini-posters provide parents and teachers with simple ways to enhance daily activities and routines with literacy specific opportunities. The CELL Pops are interactive versions of the mini posters and are for use with *infants, toddlers or preschoolers*.
- **CELL Tools:** CELL has created an extensive library of tools and resources that aide in supporting families. These are easy to use and easy to implement tools.



## Every Day is a Reading and Writing Day Toolkit

Explore the Tools in the Toolkit

Digital Storybooks

Interact with digital storybooks featuring Elmo and his Sesame Street friends to make learning new words fun.

(External) [Explore Word Play Storybooks](#) | (External) [Explore Reading Adventures Storybooks](#)

Reading and Writing Resources for Young Children - <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/reading/>

Find an Activity: <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/reading/> (features 15 different activities and articles to make it easy for parents to support their child's early literacy skills at home.)

Parent Workshop: Helping Kids Love Reading -

<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/reading/?activity=parent-workshop-helping-kids-love-reading> (Easy to use instructions to provide a workshop for families on the importance of early literacy skills.

Word Tree Activity: <https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/English/Words/g-eng-words-online-word-tree.pdf>

Words are Here, There and Everywhere: [https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/PNC\\_parent\\_tips\\_R1.pdf](https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/PNC_parent_tips_R1.pdf)

Parent Guide - [https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/English/Words/words\\_family\\_guide.pdf](https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/English/Words/words_family_guide.pdf)

Parent Tips on Reading: [https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/PNC\\_parent\\_tips\\_R1.pdf](https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/PNC_parent_tips_R1.pdf)

On the Go Activity Cards: [https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/English/Words/words\\_activity\\_cards.pdf](https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/English/Words/words_activity_cards.pdf)

Family Activity Cards: <https://www.pnc.com/content/dam/pnc-com/pdf/GUG/Sesame%20Street/English/Words/WAHTe%20Final%20Cards.pdf>

# PBS Parents/ PBS Kids

## PBS Parents/ PBS Kids



### PBS KIDS Daily

Is your child's school closed due to Coronavirus? Want updated daily content with activities and tips from PBS KIDS?

[Sign Up Here!](#)

### Bright by Text

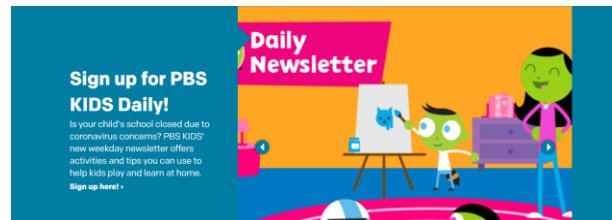
Text "WFSU" to 274448 for periodic tips to help you and your child succeed.

[Learn More](#)



Read, talk, sing and play with children EVERY DAY!  
Get more tips like this sent to your cell phone!

Bright  
by  
Text



Sign up for the newsletter: <http://public.pbs.org/PBSKIDSDaily?source=pbsparents>

PBS KIDS has a variety of free resources to support families:

- The **PBS KIDS 24/7** channel offers anytime access to trusted educational series for kids ages 2-8 (check local listings).
- The **PBS KIDS Video app** is available on mobile, tablet, and connected TV devices and offers **on-demand educational videos**, and a live stream of the PBS KIDS 24/7 channel. **No subscription required.**
- The **PBS KIDS Games app** has nearly **200 educational games**, which can be downloaded for offline play anytime, anywhere. Learn more about these and PBS KIDS' other apps [HERE](#).
- **PBS KIDS for Parents** offers information, activities, and tips for parents, including this resource on "**How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus.**"
- **Schools Closed? How to Make a New Home Routine:** <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/schools-closed-how-to-make-a-new-home-routine> (For most of us, life feels anything but normal right now with the COVID-19 pandemic. But you can create a new normal for your family by having consistent routines.)



# Math, STEM and Dual Language Learners Resources

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten Matters Ready Freddy Calendar -

<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/families/transition-to-kindergarten> (This calendar provides fun activities for families to support their children's learning at home and can help their children get ready for kindergarten. The activities are aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for 4 year olds.)

## Families Page for the [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards](#):

<http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/families.html> (All learning domains in the standards have resources for families to support their children's learning at home.)

**Dual Language Learners Toolkit for Families:** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/families-support-their-children-who-are-dual-language-learners> (This toolkit provides resources to support young children who are learning their home languages and English. There is an [introductory video](#) and resources appropriate for families.)

**Finding the Math:** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/family-note-finding-math.pdf> (Discover how families can use everyday experiences to help their children learn math. Explore ways children can learn math during home routines, shopping in the grocery store, and playing in the park. Also, find key ideas and strategies for enhancing the math concepts in these experiences.)

**Math Is Everywhere Toolkit:** <https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/math> (Sesame Street offers this math toolkit so families can help their preschooler master early math skills such as counting, number recognition, and shapes, simply by going about daily activities such as setting the table, or going to the grocery store— even playing games in and around the house. Making math part of their everyday routine is not only easy, it makes math fun and relevant for all children.)

**Bedtime Math:** <http://bedtimemath.org/minimath-app/> (Based on the popular Bedtime Math app for elementary school kids that's proven to improve math skills, MiniMath is designed for families with kids ages 4-5. Choose Food, Animals and Vehicles, or explore other math problems on all kinds of kid-friendly topics. With three different types of questions ("Look," "Do," and "Think"), you'll get a fun new activity every day.)

**Early Math Resources:** <https://talkingisteaching.org/resources/math> (Math is all around us. Check out the featured resources for simple ways to introduce early math concepts to your child during everyday activities.)

**Finding Math in Books:** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/no-search/finding-math-books.pdf> (Reading books to young children can help them develop math skills using math-related vocabulary and concepts. In this guide, learn strategies for "mathematizing" children's book-reading experiences. Find samples of children's books that are rich in mathematical content. With each book sample, there is a short summary and examples of the book's mathematical concepts and ideas.)

**Let's Talk About STEM Video Series:** <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/let-s-talk-about-stem-video-series> (These videos help parents understand the importance of STEM skills and how to engage their children in STEM activities.)

**Let's Talk, Read and Sing About STEM!:** <https://talkingisteaching.org/resources/stem-tipsheet-families> (Very young children can learn some of the basic concepts underlying **science, technology, engineering and math** (STEM). Parents can discover STEM with their child in many ways. They can talk, read, sing, play, sign or use other ways to communicate – whatever works best for their family.)

**Office of Early Learning Family Resources:** <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/family-resources> (There are more ways for parents and families to help young children learn and grow today than ever before. Some ideas are as simple as talking with your baby throughout the day so that she hears more words. Other suggestions might be to help your toddler be ready for math by showing him how to recognize and name shapes using common household items. Online resources let you explore the world with your children.)

## **Erikson Institute, Early Math Collaborative offers families math activities and resources to support their children's math at home during school closures.**

**DreamBox Learning:** <https://www.dreambox.com/> (For a limited time, parents can get a 90-day free trial of DreamBox so children can learn at home. Developed in part by Cathy Fosnot, this adaptive, online math program covers K-8 content.)

**Free Dice Games to Play at Home:** <https://mailchi.mp/mathforlove/dice-games-for-math-at-home> (Families who are at home with one or more kids and looking for fun, educational ways to pass the time, may want to try [Prime Climb](#) and [Tiny Polka Dot](#) as well as games like [1-2 Nim](#) and [Pig](#). The Free Dice games are specific ones to try out at home and are grade-specific.)

**Keep your kid's math skills sharp- without screen time!:** <http://bedtimemath.org/fun-math-at-home/> (In response to sudden demand for learning at home, we've taken our engaging, research-proven after-school math activities and are presenting them here for families to use. Our mission is to make kids love math like dessert, so here's your big chance! Check out our collection of hands-on math activities.)

**Playful Math when you're Stuck at Home:** <https://mailchi.mp/bf90035f3473/playful-math-when-youre-stuck-at-home> (Give your kids something that feels like a happy medium between home and school, and a chance for you to play with your kids in a way that is enriching.)

### **Caregiver Math Resources for COVID-19 School Closures:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YhpyimLwtjGENVskHLeL\\_X947D5O1KVag1SZjz7gXos/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YhpyimLwtjGENVskHLeL_X947D5O1KVag1SZjz7gXos/edit) (Lesley University's **Center for Mathematics Achievement** in collaboration with the **Kentucky Center for Mathematics** have put together this resource guide for parents and caregivers to be able to support children's mathematics learning at home during school closures for the COVID-19 outbreak. All the suggested resources below are **free**, with the exception of the board games. This guide is most appropriate for families whose children are in **Preschool through Fifth Grade**.)

### **Talking Math and Coronavirus with Your Kids #tmwyk:**

<https://mathjokes4mathyfolks.wordpress.com/2020/03/17/talking-math-and-coronavirus-with-your-kids-tmwyk/> (Use information about the pandemic to create math activities with your child.)