

“AT HOME” ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

With children home from school and their extracurricular activities in the coming weeks we know it may get challenging to balance keeping them busy, your own work, your other children, house work, etc. While it may be easiest to put them in front of electronic devices all day, it would be most beneficial to the children to provide them with varying activities, both hands-on and online, to engage them throughout the day. With this in mind, we compiled a list of websites below that share wonderful ideas for keeping children busy and learning at home. From independent activities for single children with working parents, to free coding game websites, to STEM activities, to “electronics free” crafts and projects, to online educational programs that are offering free lessons for the next few months to assist with online school, we hope this list helps to keep your children entertained and their minds engaged throughout the day!

Calendar of Livestream Activities for Children

This is the best resource out there right now that keeps the dates and times of many of the livestream activities for elementary aged children in one place! From music and art classes to virtual field trips to zoos, to martial arts and dance classes, to story times and more, this is a great resource for free, live, online activities for young children!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1d9vA4JUnr1xFafSY5n7iF75eCb3fX2Azy_6rZOOzH_8

LIVE Online Daily Art Classes for Children

McHarper Manor, an arts school in Ohio, is offering free online art classes (live with instructors) for children beginning everyday at 1pm for the next few weeks. They have listed the projects they'll be doing each day on their website, and have included a list of supplies with links to purchase them on Amazon.

<https://www.mcharpermanor.com/post/supply-list-for-our-first-week-of-projects>

“Go Noodle” Online Movement and Mindfulness Classes and Activities for Elementary Children

One of the best website programs for children that many classroom teachers utilize is Go Noodle, a company that is devoted to getting kids moving throughout their school day to help improve their focus during instruction time. Their movement is made to be fun, engaging, and high energy. The videos are intended for kids to be able to follow along on their own. They recently added games and at home crafts and activities as well!

<https://www.gonoodle.com/good-energy-at-home-kids-games-and-videos/>

BalletNova Center for Dance

BalletNova is offering free LIVE dance classes on their Facebook page! Their schedule is below. What a great way to get your kids (or you!) moving and learning something new.

To access the live streaming, search for “BalletNova Center for Dance” on Facebook.

“During these challenging times we are pleased to announce that BalletNova will be offering free live streamed classes taught by our esteemed faculty and hosted by our Artistic Director Matthew Powell! In addition, you'll get a sneak peak behind the scenes of the studio, our upcoming productions, and more exclusive content.”

Monday, 3/16/20

4 – 4:45pm: Conditioning

5 – 5:45pm: Advanced Beginning Ballet (teen to adult)

Tuesday, 3/17/20

11:30am – 12:15pm: 50+ Ballet All Levels

4 – 4:45pm: Children’s Ballet, Ages 10-12

5 – 5:45pm: Intermediate Ballet (teen to adult)

6 – 6:45pm: Jazz Dance

Wednesday, 3/18/20

5 – 5:45pm: Conditioning

6 – 6:45pm: Advanced Beginning Ballet (teen to adult)

Thursday, 3/19/20

10 – 10:45am: Tap

5 – 5:45pm: Intermediate Ballet (teen to adult)

6 – 6:45pm: Theatre Dance (teen to adult)

Friday, 3/20/20

10 – 10:45am: Yoga/Meditation

4 – 4:45pm: Children’s Ballet (ages 7 – 9)

5 – 5:45pm: Advanced Beginning Ballet (teen to adult)

Cincinnati Zoo Virtual “Home Safari” Live

The Cincinnati Zoo is going live each weekday at 3pm to highlight one of the animal habitats. Join them for a greatly live science experience!

<http://cincinnati-zoo.org/home-safari-resources/?fbclid=IwAR2JzqePcrmtYa2EWdqcDD-QIBWrJPY605GJCqeknnSAGf8zo5i63D1sluA>

San Diego Zoo Online Website for Children

The San Diego Zoo has one of the best websites available for children. With live cameras on their animals in the zoo, story videos, online animal games to play, and a slew of animal related arts and crafts, the site is a great resource where you can let your child loose to explore!

<https://kids.sandiegozoo.org>

Storyline Online: Actors Read Aloud Children's Books Online

This is a fantastic free website where award winning actors read aloud children's books to help improve literacy skills in children.

<https://www.storylineonline.net>

NASA Online Library now FREE to All

NASA has made their online media library of over 140,000 images and videos of space available to anyone for the first time! Amazing images that spark conversation, questioning, and reflection.

<https://www.diyphotography.net/nasa-makes-entire-media-library-publicly-accessible-copyright-free/>

Excellent Homemade Play Dough Recipe

This only dirties one pot, isn't sticky, and will keep your children entertained for hours!

<https://www.iheartnaptime.net/play-dough-recipe/>

Take a Virtual Field Trip to a Museum

Twelve museums from around the world offer free virtual museum tours online.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours%3famp=true>

Virtual Field Trips

Click the links below to access a list of virtual field trips.

<https://www.discoveryeducation.com/community/virtual-field-trips/>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/science-virtual-field-trips/>

Lunch “Doodle” Live with Author and Illustrator, Mo Willems

Mo Willems, author and illustrator of many beloved children’s books including Knuffle Bunny, invites children to join him everyday for a Lunch Doodle.

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/>

Activities, Crafts, Projects, and Games

Below are excellent articles that include hundreds of activities, crafts, and games your children can do from home without electronic devices.

“Project Kid”: This online crafts site for kids specializes in easy and creative craft for kids, organized by category. There is even a section on the best quarantine craft ideas!

<https://projectkid.com>

“100 Ways to Have Fun with your Kids for Free or Cheap”: Creative ways for your children to entertain themselves, some independently and some with others.

<https://zenhabits.net/100-ways-to-have-fun-with-your-kids-for/>

“Fun Things to do at Home with the Kids”: Twenty excellent activities for kids of all ages that engage them without electronic devices!

<https://www.toucanbox.com/activities/fun-things-to-do-at-home-with-your-kids>

“Good Housekeeping’s 50 Activities to Keep Kids Entertained for Hours”: Indoor and outdoor crafts and games to entertain children without electronic devices.

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/craft-ideas/how-to/g1389/diy-kids-activities/>

“38 screen-free activities that’ll keep your kids busy while you get stuff done”: Set your kids to work on these great activities while you work or get things done around the house!

<https://www.theloop.ca/38-screen-free-activities-thatll-keep-your-kids-busy-while-you-do-your-business/>

“20 Old-School Ways to Keep Kids Busy without Screen Time”: Fun yet simple ways to keep your children busy, including great activities for siblings!

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.mother.ly/amp/how-to-keep-a-preschooler-busy-other-than-screening-me-2559480623>

“What to do When Kids Say They’re Bored”: Many great suggestions for children to do alone or with others.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/funbeasts.com/things-to-do-when-bored-for-kids/amp/>

“30 Things to do when Kids say I’m Bored”: Another comprehensive list of at-home activities.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.care.com/c/stories/3780/things-to-do-when-kids-say-im-bored/amp/>

Coding for Children

Coding websites are a fun and accessible way for children to learn to write computer programs.

Coding is being taught and encouraged in many schools around the world to help prepare children for the future of technology, math, science, and more. Below are websites that teach coding to children of all ages by engaging them in math, creative thinking, engineering, and problem solving activities.

“Coding for Kids”: Coding 101 with 12 free coding games websites for children of varying ages and levels. Coding is a fun, challenging, and highly beneficial activity for kids!

<https://childhood101.com/coding-for-kids/>

“Coding Programs for Kids: Free and Cheap Websites that Teach Kids Programming”

<https://momypoppins.com/coding-kids-free-websites-teach-learn-programming>

STEM Activities for Children

These websites do a great job with highlighting at home STEM activities for children.

“The Ultimate STEM Guide for Kids”: This incredibly comprehensive list organizes STEM activities by instructional level and subject.

<https://www.mastersindatasience.org/blog/the-ultimate-stem-guide-for-kids-239-cool-sites-about-science-technology-engineering-and-math/>

“*Adventure Academy*”: Adventure Academy is an outstanding game that incorporates all school subject areas in an adventure game in a virtual universe. It will keep your child entertained and learning at their grade level for hours! Currently one month free and 49% off of a year subscription.

https://www.adventureacademy.com/?src_tag=nonbrand:goog&utm_campaignid=6492873100&utm_adgroupid=77055267999&utm_adextensionid=&utm_targetid=kwd-298287800295&utm_matchtype=b&utm_network=g&utm_device=m&utm_devicemodel=&utm_creativeid=381999793173&utm_placement=&utm_adposition=&utm_geo=US&gclid=CjwKCAjwgbLzBRBsEiwAXVlygPmBVJbgWd1Wb7r9cmlxUFsq3KxM3ijuYeNzKoAGYwv8XMh9y6n9xBoCGeYQAvD_BwE

“*STEM Games for Kids*”: This is a good list of STEM websites for children with fun games that they can play independently!

<https://online.maryville.edu/computer-science-degrees/stem-games-kids/>

“*10 Best Stem Websites for Kids in 2020*”: This website includes the pros and cons (including whether it is free or not) for the top STEM websites for 2020.

<https://www.bestkidstuff.com/tech/best-stem-websites-for-kids/>

Quiet Time Activities for Children

Activities for children when they (or you!) need a little bit of peace and quiet in the day.

“*25 Fun, Quiet Time Activities*”: A fantastic list of quiet time activities for 4 to 7 year olds!

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/fun-quiet-time-activities/>

“*Fun Games to Keep Your Single Child Busy*”: This is a good list of board games you can purchase (with links) for kids to play with only one player.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.momspresso.com/parenting/watering-the-root/article/fun-games-to-keep-your-single-child-busy>

“*Moments of Mindfulness for Busy Kids with Busy Minds*”: This website gives you some creative ways to bring calm to your child’s day!

<https://www.steampoweredfamily.com/brains/moments-of-mindfulness/>

Scholastic Educational Resources

Educational resources from Scholastic that are available for free, now through April 20th, are included below.

For all, use the same username and password...

Username: Learning20

Password: Clifford

BookFlix (PreK-3):

BookFlix provides a fun way for early readers to engage with stories and nonfiction ebooks.

<https://digital.scholastic.com/site/launch/bkflix?ucn=642726498>

TrueFlix (Grades 3+):

TrueFlix helps students build science and social studies knowledge in an engaging way.

<https://digital.scholastic.com/site/launch/tfx?ucn=642726498>

ScienceFlix (Grades 5+):

ScienceFlix gets students excited about all sciences with exciting articles, videos, and projects.

<https://digital.scholastic.com/site/launch/sfx?ucn=642726498>

Watch & Learn Library (Prek – 3):

Watch & Learn Library builds learning excitement with real-world videos in English and Spanish.

<https://digital.scholastic.com/site/launch/watchandlearn?ucn=642726498>

Scholastic's New "Learn at Home" Program for Online School

Scholastic just released a 20 day program, by grade level, to get kids reading, thinking, and growing while at home. This is excellent for districts where teachers are not sending work home for children.

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

FunEnglishGames.Com English/Language Arts Games, Lessons, and Activities

English (Writing, Spelling, Grammar) is one of the most important subject areas yet a difficult one to incorporate into distance learning. This free website makes learning English/Language Arts interactive and fun for kids!

<http://www.funenglishgames.com>

Websites with Activities to Improve Children's Writing Skills

This article includes a list of websites where children can practice their writing skills through poetry, comics, collaborative storymaking and more.

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/english/professional_development/institutes/2012/writing/elementary/phillips_abingdon_06.pdf

SumDog Online Math and Literacy Program is FREE for the Next Few Months

SumDog is an online Math and Literacy program that is typically bought by schools to be used by their teachers and students in the classrooms. However, it is offering a free subscription now to teachers and families. Take a look and subscribe for free access to their outstanding standards-based numeracy and literacy programs including lessons, games, and more.

<https://pages.sumdog.com/home-learning-during-school-closures/>

E-Learning for Kids Online Lessons for Children in ALL Subject Areas

E-Learning for Kids is a leader worldwide in providing FREE online lessons for kids in all subject areas. The lessons are interactive and engaging, and kids can easily navigate the site themselves by choosing a subject area, their grade level (K-6), and then a lesson to complete.

<https://en.e-learningforkids.org/science/grade/3/>

Learning From Home: Parent Resources

Below are articles and websites that include resources for how to be both “teacher” and “parent” to your children during this challenging time. They include information on how to structure your child’s schedule, examples of homeschool schedules, and tips on how to get through the next few weeks!

<https://insider.pureflix.com/education/5-examples-of-homeschool-schedules-youll-want-to-copy>

<https://www.pros-and-cons-of-homeschooling.com/homeschool-schedules.html>

https://www.homeschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/HSCom_Planner.pdf

<https://www.today.com/parents/coronavius-schools-closed-here-s-how-teach-kids-home-t175904>

<https://q13fox.com/2020/03/16/homeschooling-101-how-parents-can-teach-their-kids-at-home/>