

Educational and Other Related Resources for Families during School Shutdowns

--Volume 2--



The following are free, or at least temporarily free, resources for parents, caregivers, teachers, and others interested in assisting our students during these unusual times. Rather than share all the lists of sites that have been circulating online, a conscious effort was made to review these sites to an extent. These were all available at the time this listing was created. *(Please note that we are not responsible for any changes or technical issues these sites might have after sharing this information.)*

We hope that these ideas will be helpful. We plan to share more resources every week to keep ideas and suggestions fresh without overwhelming anyone with yet another list to read. Our hope is that this provides inspiration to compliment any that may have been shared by your child's school during these unusual and trying times. Keep checking back for new links each week.

Thanks to those who have shared some of the resources enclosed!

Educational content:

- BrainPop is a site allowing free access to schools closed due to the pandemic. www.educators.brainpop.com/2020/02/19/free-brainpop-access-for-schools-affected-by-the-corona-virus/?utm_source=organic&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_content=free-access
- ABCMouse /Adventure Academy is offering a free month of access during the school shutdown: www.abcmouse.com. This is to bolster potential subscribers after the initial 30 days. However, this site is allowing schools to register and share home access through teachers at: www.ageoflearning.com/schools. For Pre-K-through middle school.
- Amazing Educational Resources is a Facebook page where parents and teachers can request and share ideas during the Coronavirus school shutdown. This site changes frequently. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/445786889466638/?ref=bookmarks>.
- Free online resources for schools from National School Choice Week: <https://schoolchoiceweek.com/keep-learning/>

Internet:

- Cox Internet is offering internet options for those whose students are eligible for National School Lunch Program or other supportive services. There is also an option for those who may not meet these requirements if necessary to access internet for educational purposes: <https://www.cox.com/residential/internet/connect2compete/covid-19-response.html>

- Questions regarding internet and connectivity during the school shutdown: <https://www.highspeedinternet.com/resources/internet-guide-during-coronavirus-outbreak#no-cost-internet>
- For those of you who have never used Zoom, please check out these [Zoom How To Videos](#) or click on [Zoom](#) now to download the app. *(If you have reservations about this platform, please consider checking whether your child's school or college has an account to help address any privacy concerns that have been circulating in the news.)*
- Shout out to Port Byron School District in Cayuga County for their creative way to help students with internet needs during the COVID-19 closures. https://auburnpub.com/news/local/port-byron-deploys-buses-with-internet-to-help-students-amid-covid-19-closures/article_898f25ad-bff6-5a85-86bc-ed87c8c2b7db.html

Coronavirus resources:

- OPWDD's updated website regarding Coronavirus: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>
- Breezy Special Ed is offering free COVID-19 resources for those may require some strategies to explain this new reality to their loved ones and students. Please note that there are some sections that have a fee, but there are several free offerings as well. www.breezyspecialed.com/2020/03/distance-home-learning-packets-and.html?m.

Special Education & related supports:

- Adapted physical activities ideas from Heartland Area Education Agency. While these ideas are mostly for teachers in the classroom, they may provide some ideas to adapt at home. <https://www.heartlandaea.org/special-education/special-education-services/ape/adapted-physical-activities>.
- Sensory diet ideas to possibly incorporate at home from Sensory Smarts: https://www.sensorysmarts.com/sensory_diet_activities.html
- Easy craft suggestions from Coach Art: <https://coachart.org/blog/10-easy-crafts-for-kids-with-motor-disabilities/>
- 20 Learning activities to keep kids busy from Understood: https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/stuck-at-home-activities?utm_source=nl-en&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wklynl-0331-fm

Behavioral resources:

- "Supporting Kids with Oppositional Defiant Disorder in the Classroom: What Teachers Need to Know" is actually for use within the school. However, school is now home and these ideas can be adapted for use with your family "classroom." <https://www.boredteachers.com/classroom-management/teachers-need-to-know-oppositional-defiant-disorder-odd>
- This video was originally posted on a site for teachers and administrators regarding school discipline ideas. The originator of this sensory walk created it for her son and then used in his

school. So, this may not be feasible in your home, but the hope is it inspires you to create something to you to create a way for your child to expel some energy in a thoughtful manner during the shutdown.

<https://www.facebook.com/NamelessNetworkHerstory/videos/652915495281022/UzpfSTEWMDAxMDYzNDlwNTM2NjpWSzo1MTA4ODc4MzY0Njg4ODU/?sfnsn=mo&d=n&vh=e>

Reading resources:

- Book Creator allows teachers access to collaborate on books as well as a listing of ideas on how to use this feature for remote learning. www.bookcreator.com/2020/03/support-for-schools-affected-by-coronavirus/

Letter writing:

- For younger students or fans, send fan mail to Pete the Cat (and practice this lost art)! Pete the Cat, 2126 E. Victory Drive #112, Savannah, Georgia 31404. Use this as a way to reinforce writing and correspondence by encouraging young readers to share their thoughts on this literary cat.

Educational games:

- Fun Brain has a variety of games, videos, and more for Pre-K to 8th grade: <https://www.funbrain.com/>.

Mental Health Supports:

- CNN has shared that Yale's massively popular "happiness" course is available free online. Check out: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/23/health/yale-happiness-course-wellness/index.html>
- Teens are "learning" a new way to deal with their COVID-19 anxiety: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/teens-are-discovering-a-cure-for-coronavirus-anxiety-walks-no-phones-allowed/2020/03/26/ca2e36ba-6c40-11ea-aa80-c2470c6b2034_story.html

Supportive & Informative Education Opportunities for Parents & Professionals:

- Upcoming webinar: Emotional Support for Families during COVID-19 from Autism Research Institute, **4/9/20 at 11:00 am**. To register: <https://www.autism.org/managing-autism-stress-during-covid-19/>
- We will be starting some virtual support sessions for parents and caregivers soon! Be on the lookout for more information! Check out your email or your region's events section of the website for dates and times. This will be a way to connect while we are all keeping our distance.
- Remember that our FREE online webinars are still available during this time! Check out the upcoming webinar topics here: <http://parenttoparentnys.org/index.php/news/statewide-events> and follow instructions to register.

- Looking for some supportive messages in another format? Consider registering for our Text4Caregivers program. Learn more or sign-up through our website at: <http://parenttoparentnys.org/news/headline-news/text4caregivers/>. If you have problems, please contact the Project Director, Valerie, at: vcolavecchio@ptopnys.org and she can assist you directly.
- Did you know that Parent to Parent of NYS is on Twitter? You can find us @PtoPofNYS.

Virtual Visits:

- Missing out on musicals or have someone who is interested in productions? Andrew Lloyd Weber is allowing free streaming of his musicals. https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/andrew-lloyd-webber-stream-musicals-free-youtube_51313.html?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=2April2020.
- Only In Your State: www.onlyinyourstate.com/states/new-york/. This site allows you to virtually visit different NYS attractions and state parks via the web. You can use this to supplement geography and history lessons, or to "visit" locations from the relative safety of your computer. You can also "visit" the other 49 states as well.
- These 12 famous museums offer virtual tours you can take at home by video: https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social-share-article&utm_content=20200313

Other:

- Thanks to The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming for sharing some ideas from their Kid Start page, which contains some fun and upbeat stuff: <https://www.facebook.com/KidstartTheArcLivWyo/>

If you found this helpful, then please take a moment to help us reach more caregivers. **Please take 2 to tell 2 about P2P!** Please take two minutes to share this link and/or our state website (www.parenttoparentnys.org) with two other people who may not be familiar with Parent to Parent of NYS.

Have a potential link or site to share? Please send them to smarrella@ptopnys.org.

Congrats to all for making it through another week!

