

3/17/20

Hello to all of our families.

Clearly it is an understatement to say that we are in uncharted waters these days. The global pandemic is impacting every corner of our lives, which is hard on not only kids, but also parents and educators. With all of this in mind, we want to assure everyone in our community that we have worked to create a plan with all of the needs of both kids and families in mind.

As part of this, please know that every conversation we have had regarding the closing of school has started and ended with agreements that our first priority is the social-emotional needs of our kids. Kids can't learn if we don't tend to how they feel, and present events can't help but impact the psyche of our students.

Every family is undoubtedly feeling some level of stress at this time, and being able to make these connections with those who mean the most to us is a basic human need and will go a long way towards building a foundation for navigating the upcoming weeks. We strongly suggest that the priority of all families is to simply connect as a family. Have a family meal. Play a board game together. Make popcorn and watch a movie. Assure your kids that they are safe and loved. And throughout all of this you can interweave assurances that everything is ok and we are all going to get through this. Academic needs, while important, should take a back seat during this time.

This being said, we do want to take steps to try and keep our kids sharp and ease the transition when school resumes. Our intent is to offer flexible options for our families with an acknowledgement that the capacity of families to support varies. It should also be noted, to our parents who will be supporting our kids, that we don't feel that a concrete list of assignments is the most effective way to support the whole child throughout this time.

There is no replacing the interactions between a teacher and their student, but we do feel as if we can offer suggestions and supports to help our kids stay sharp through this unprecedented disruption in their education. Our intent is to maintain communication between our teachers and families so kids can get feedback throughout their time away from school. Our hope is that our kids will be able to have some varied experiences that will contribute to their growth. Below are some options for this to happen. Please note that this is not intended to be a checklist, but rather to offer thoughts and options so families can make their own choices based on what works best for all of their needs.

[Click here for a suggested preschool opportunities for March/April](#) (you can also see the calendar below)

[Special Education Resources](#)

Suggested Opportunities March/April 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Please remember to limit the amount of screen time.	16 Practice hand washing. Sing the ABC's twice before raising the soap off hands. Make sure to get tops and bottoms and between fingers.	17 Go on a letter hunt around the house. Try to find letters in your name.	18 Cut letters or pictures out of junk mail and glue onto a piece of paper.	19 Get out those crayons and markers and color a picture. Encourage your child to label <u>drawing</u> .	20 Sign your favorite Nursery Rhymes. Check out Super Simple Songs on YouTube.	
	23 Practice writing first and last name. Make it fun and make each letter a different color.	24 Practice self help skills like zipping your coat and buttoning pants.	25 Talk a walk around the neighborhood and talk about the things you see.	26 Use 2 different items in your house to make patterns. Ex. car, lego, car, lego	27 Read a book and have your child retell you the story.	
	30 Go outside and ride your bike or scooter.	31 Go on a shape hunt around the house. Talk about how many sides and points the shape has.	1 Make tally marks the number of days you have been out of school.	2 Have your child help make a Chore list, grocery list or To Do list.	3 Include your child in helping with meal prep. Ex. Set the table, help measure ingredients, wash dishes.	
	6 Find random art materials around the house and create a collage.	7 Talk about the changes in the weather and environment (flowers growing, trees budding)	8 Find a deck of cards and sort by number, color, suit or play a game of go fish.	9 Have your child count the number of windows in your house.	10 Write a letter to a friend or family member and then have them mail it.	
	13 Read your child their favorite book or have your child read their favorite book to you.	14 Play a board game as a family. Talk about taking turns and using words.	15 Use a dice, roll and have your child count the dots and then write the number.	16 Practice writing your friends names or the members in your family.	17 Make puppets and then have a puppet show.	

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[Resources on how to talk to your child about Coronavirus](#)

As we move forward, you can expect communication from your child's teacher. Please keep in mind that the primary focus of these communications is to maintain connections between teachers and kids as we continue to navigate an evolving situation.

Much thanks for all of the patience and support that has been shown over the last several days. It speaks volumes to both the quality of our community and the optimism that we are going to stay strong in the days and weeks ahead.

Angela Ashburn
Early Childhood Director

