



Keeping Kids Engaged During School Closures

A concise list of helpful apps, websites, and tips for parents, teachers, and tutors.

We're All In This Together

Feeling overwhelmed with everything currently going on in our world, and additionally at having to home school your children, effective immediately? You are not alone. If your inboxes and social media threads are anything like ours, by now you have received a paralyzing number of lists of resources aimed at “helping” you to navigate the world of homeschooling... starting tomorrow! Green Door Learning, Zinn Education Management, and Hayutin & Associates have partnered to offer you some clear and concise guidance and support.

As you adjust to a new schedule, way of working and being at home, we are here to support you and provide encouragement. Below are apps, websites, and tips we think you will find helpful.



Apps & Websites

Trello

Trello is a tool created for business, but it has a lot of applications for school, organization and project-based work. Here are some ways it can be used during school closures:

- Students can use this to keep track of work, draft an essay, and work with a group for certain projects.
- Parents can use this to keep track of family chore lists, student projects or assignments, or make a family project board.
- Teachers can use this to help students organize their assignments, and track the steps when drafting an essay or project.

Flipgrid

Flipgrid is simple. Educators spark discussions by posting topics to a classroom, school, professional learning community, or public grid. Students record, upload, view, react, and respond to each other through short videos.

- Teachers can use Flipgrid to record responses, prompt discussions and communicate with students. Check out the Educators Guide to Flipgrid [here](#).

Dayboard

While intended for business users, Dayboard can be used to help with family organization, projects in a classroom or advisory setting. Please note this app is only compatible for those using Google Chrome.

- Teachers and parents can use Dayboard to keep track of students tasks, set reminders, and organize work priorities.
- Tutors can use Dayboard to start online sessions, where you can assign and close out certain student tasks on a common dashboard.

BrainPOP

BrainPOP makes rigorous learning experiences accessible and engaging for students and teachers, offering learning resources that support core and supplemental subjects. BrainPOP is offering free services for schools closed due to Coronavirus. BrainPOP can be used to assist teachers and students with:

- Distance learning
- Support for projects and homework
- Keeping students on track with their studies

Learning A-Z

Learning A-Z provides literacy-focused PreK-6 resources for instruction and practice. For applicable schools, Learning A-Z is providing free Raz-Kids and Headsprout, two resource banks geared towards reading improvement and literacy.

- Students will be able to access literacy resources from home, or any place with an Internet connection.

Zearn

Zearn Math brings together hands-on teaching and immersive digital learning to improve math concepts and more opportunities for support for students. Zearn is offering its entire K-5 curriculum – including 400 hours of digital lessons with on-screen teachers and supportive remediation – for free during this time.

- Kids, teachers, parents, and caregivers can directly access content 24/7, outside of school, including paper-based materials that can be used without a device.

For a complete list of free educational resources, click [here](#).



Tips & Activities

Keep A Schedule

This is very important for you and your student(s). Post a schedule where it is visible to everyone in your home. Heck, post it everywhere visible - on the fridge, in the bathroom, in the hallway. Set timers like school bells. Get up, eat breakfast, brush your teeth, get dressed, and connect online. The idea of working in our PJs is fun and intriguing, but don't do it unless it is "Pajama Day" in your house or class.

It will be very important to keep a routine in the coming weeks. You know your family best, so create a schedule that meets everyone's needs. There are several "suggested" schedules floating around right now. Be flexible and kind to yourself as you navigate what are certain to be interesting times for our students' learning.

Move!

Recess, and PE will all need to be scheduled and encouraged by families during school closures. It's also a great reminder for parents and educators to get moving as well.

For little ones, [Cosmic Kids Yoga](#) is a great option. They have a YouTube channel so activities can be done in the home, as well as lessons and resources on their website.

Adults and adolescents can sign up for a one-month free trial and take advantage of the online classes at [Yoga Works](#) or [Pure Barre](#).

And while social distancing is still encouraged, that doesn't mean that going outdoors is totally off limits. Respect others' boundaries when going for a walk or hike, riding a bike, or playing in nature.



Connection makes us stronger.
Please reach out if we can
provide support in any way.

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