

# Keeping Children Engaged in Distance Learning



## *Ten Suggestions for Parents/Guardians to Keep Children Engaged in Distance Learning provided by The Parent Involvement Committee*

- 1. Check in regularly with your children.** Ask them questions. “How are you doing? What has your teacher asked you to do today? What do you need to get that work done? How can I help you?”
- 2. Determine what type of activities work best for your child.** What activities do they prefer? Which learning platforms keep them engaged? What type of independent tasks do they complete eagerly? Which ones require more encouragement? As you engage in different activities with your child, are there things that would be beneficial for your child’s educator to know? Please reach out to the classroom educator and share your observations.
- 3. Adjust your child’s schedule as needed.** If your child is frustrated - take a break. If they are engaged in an activity - allow them more time to go deeper into what is of interest to them. If you notice there are times that are better for your child to engage in the learning, use this time for the more challenging activities.
- 4. Use a checklist.** Checklists help to organize the work into manageable chunks and build satisfaction. Be sure to provide positive praise or rewards (breaks/special activities/fun time with you) when each task is completed.
- 5. Provide positive feedback** Praising children for their effort is important in encouraging them. Try to find opportunities to celebrate small milestones. Remember to celebrate yourself as well - you are playing an important role to help your child learn and grow.
- 6. Remember to wait.** Children take more time to process information. Be patient - give them time to think before you jump in to help. This will help build their self-confidence in learning and greater independence.
- 7. Adjust your expectations.** Learning can be messy. Remember that learning is a process and children need to learn from their mistakes. Not every assignment is to be published. Focus on the goal of the activity and celebrate the learning through the process.
- 8. Review educator feedback with your child.** Take time to review the feedback that has been provided to your child. Ask them what it means and how they can demonstrate that feedback in their next activity or assignment.
- 9. Help your child own their learning.** Struggling is a natural part of learning. Try not to step in to solve the problem immediately if your child is becoming frustrated - take a break and then return to the task later. If they still need help - support them but let them do the work. Reach out to the school team as needed.
- 10. Have fun!** Allow choice - what activity does your child want to do first? Build in breaks. Celebrate often.

*The information in this document has been summarized from the following resources.*

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/5-tips-help-keep-children-learning-during-covid-19-pandemic>

<https://education.jhu.edu/2020/04/8tipsforfocus>

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/55621/how-parents-can-help-their-kids-while-managing-distance-learning>

<https://www.acs-schools.com/parents-guide-distance-learning>