

Educational and Other Related Resources for Families during School Shutdowns



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.

Given that this is our first attempt and that Governor Andrew Cuomo extended the mandatory school closures across the state until at least April 15th, this particular edition will be a bit longer than subsequent versions.

Educational content:

- Khan Academy is providing free online resources for ages 2-18 during school shutdowns. They offer reading, science, math, and more to check out. This site is great for students, parents, teachers, and school: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>. This is a fabulous resource that provides lessons, daily schedules, and much, much more. *(Offers pre-school through AP coursework subject matter.)*
- American Chemistry Society (ACS) has science information, lessons, games, and more for elementary and middle school students.
www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students.html.
www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/adventures-in-chemistry.html
provides some fun activities to engage students with science projects and learning. There are other levels from high school to college that may be accessed on this site as well. On a related note, the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT) will allow free online educational resources to be accessed **until March 31st**:
www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/k-8.html

Internet:

- If you are not currently a Spectrum customer and need reliable internet for your student at home, you may be able to access it at home. Check here for information:
<https://www.spectrum.net/support/internet/coronavirus-internet-offer-students/>
- Comcast is offering internet options for those impacted by the school shutdown across the nation if they need access to the internet. Check here for more info:
<https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>

Coronavirus resources:

- Boardmaker is offering access to free materials to assist students to understand the necessary changes brought on by the pandemic. There are a variety of resources to help facilitate communication, from home to hospitals here: www.goboardmaker.com/pages/coronavirus-resources. In addition, there are free downloads under their Activities-to-go collections: www.goboardmaker.com/collections/boardmaker-activities-to-go
- ChildMind Institute is offering many different resources for families during the pandemic crisis to help mitigate worries—both for the parents and their children. Check out their offerings here: <https://childmind.org/coping-during-covid-19-resources-for-parents/>
- American Society of Deaf Children has some helpful links on explaining Coronavirus to those who are deaf or hearing impaired including in ASL: <https://deafchildren.org/2020/03/talking-to-kids-about-coronavirus-asl-english-resources/>

Special Education & related supports:

- Shout out to Vestal Central School in Broome County for compiling the following lists for OT, PT, & ST suggestions: <https://www.vestal.stier.org/OccupationalTherapyResources.aspx>, <https://www.vestal.stier.org/Downloads/Physical-Therapy.pdf>, <https://www.vestal.stier.org/Downloads/Speech-Therapy.pdf>
- A helpful listing from the American Foundation for the Blind: <https://www.afb.org/blog/topic/coronavirus-covid-19>.
- A helpful listing from the National Association for the Deaf: <https://www.nad.org/2020/03/12/coronavirus/>.

Behavioral resources:

- Do2Learn offers a collection of free PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), as well as information on creating visual schedules and behavioral supports. Check here for more info and be sure to select the free items: www.do2learn.com.
- How to work with your child when they persevere: <https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/common-challenges/self-control/perseveration-adhd-and-learning-differences>. In addition, consider their parent toolkit for more personalized supports and suggestions. Or, check out their Coronavirus supports for families, from work to home issues here: https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/coronavirus-latest-updates?_ul=1*1a5ddq*domain_userid*YW1wLW1IWVBrWDI5d05BSWhfY0tMbGp6VUE.

Reading resources:

- Audible is offering free stories for students during this time. Check out: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> for details. This will be made available as long as the school shutdown continues per the website. This is a great way to have students engage in reading—whether they are proficient readers or not.

- Book Bub offers access to a variety of Ebooks, many free of charge, from other retailers. You need to create a free profile and then determine the type of books of interest. Visit www.bookbub.com to learn more. This may be more appropriate for older students.

Educational games:

- BreakoutEDU has created some games to promote fun at home. There are a variety of games and content areas for K-12. www.breakoutedu.com/funathome For parents or teachers, be sure to check out the YouTube video link on how to implement these games for positive learning on the page under the title. These might be good incentive breaks for those who need periodic breaks during instruction.
- Got someone who is into Minecraft? Guess what—they are stepping up to offer free educational content for students stuck at home. Read more about this offering here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/video-games/2020/03/24/minecraft-education-edition-coronavirus-remote-learning-students/>

Mental Health Supports:

- Autism Society's COVID-19 Mental Health & Respite tool kit: <https://www.autism-society.org/covid-mental-health-respite/?emci=ca471913-fd6d-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=9a19c79f-5a70-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=768658>
- National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI) shares some tips here: <https://www.nami.org/About-NAMI/NAMI-News/2020/NAMI-Updates-on-the-Coronavirus>.

Supportive & Informative Education Opportunities for Parents & Professionals:

- CARD Albany now offers distance education opportunities for professionals and parents on topics related to autism at no cost. Check out the options here: <https://www.albany.edu/autism/distance-education>
- 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.

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. And thanks to those who graciously shared some links for this and subsequent editions.

Congrats to all for making it through the week so far.

