

Learning and Engagement Support for Families During Spring Break

Purpose

With the extension of [Governor Scott's Stay-at-Home Order](#) and with [school closures extending to the end of the school year](#), many families will be finding themselves looking for appropriate activities for their children over their schools' spring break. For many parents who are already feeling overwhelmed, planning activities to keep their children engaged and mentally stimulated may add unnecessary stress and anxiety. The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) is working to provide support and guidance to all families beginning April 13, 2020. We encourage both educators and families and caregivers to visit our [Continuity of Learning webpage](#) to access guidance and supports. Below are some resources that can be shared with educators so they will be able to support families while they are on break. The AOE does not expect these activities to be assessed or replace any aspect of an SU/SD's Continuity of Learning plan.

Spring Break Resources

Keeping students engaged over Spring Break is hard to do. However, that job becomes even tougher when students adhere to social distancing rules. Below are a variety of resources to assist families and caregivers in engaging PreK-12 students. This is not an exhaustive list; these are resources that can serve as a springboard to engage families and students and keep them connected to their school over break.

PBS

The Vermont Agency of Education has partnered with the [Vermont Public Broadcasting System \(PBS\)](#) to provide free, educational programming resources via television broadcasts. The PreK through grade 12 programming is aligned to national standards and includes interactive lessons and suggested activities. PBS Plus (WGBH) has already begun airing educational programming for grades 6-12 during the noon to 5 p.m. time slot; programming for PreK-8 will begin Monday, April 6, on the PBS main channel which is broadly available throughout the state and does not require cable.

ELA

- The [National Council of Teachers of English website](#) has engaging ways to introduce your child to reading or to encourage your teen to write. Need some age-appropriate book suggestions or rainy-day activities? The materials here are your answer—all of them created by experts to be fun, educational, and easy to use outside of school.

Contact Information:

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- [Scholastic](#) offers free online learning, educational games, and reading resources for kids and parents.

Social Studies

- [We Are Teachers](#) have websites for students of all ages to engage in virtual museum tours and field trips.
- [HISTORY at Home](#) offers teachers, parents and students a chance to learn about history independently. This collection of HISTORY's educational television shows, being made available for a limited time, offers information and insight into middle school and high school core curriculum topics.

Math

- The [Vermont Council of Teachers of Mathematics \(VCTM\)](#) has collected various resources to assist with distance learning.
- In these times of uncertainty, [youcubed](#) is a resource to help students at home continue to explore and learn math in rich and creative ways. They have been collecting modified versions of their tasks to be more home-friendly, as well as some new explorations designed for learners at home.

Science

- [Vermont Science Teachers Association \(VSTA\)](#) has created a sample learning menu of online and offline activities for students K-5, MS and HS.
- [Left Brain, Craft Brain](#) provides engaging engineering and STEAM projects for students that do not require an internet connection.

Financial Literacy

- [TheMint](#) provides tools to help parents to teach children how to manage money wisely and develop good financial habits, through activities and challenges geared towards learners of all ages.
- Kasasa offers [15 Financial Literacy Crafts for Kids](#) on its parent blog that are low-to-no tech.

World Languages

- Learning with [Duolingo](#) is an engaging app for any language learner. Earn points for correct answers, race against the clock and level up. Duolingo has free and paid options.
- Explore the world at your fingertips.... Here's a comprehensive list of [virtual tours](#) you can take with your children, adventure all over the world from the confines of your own home

Art

- [Vermont Art Online](#) is a website created in response to the COVID-19 crisis which hosts virtual exhibits from Vermont museums and galleries. The site provides a viewing guide with suggestions for exercises with students, as well as links to the participating

institutions' educational resources, and other online arts programming from organizations across the state.

- The City of Los Angeles' [CultureLA](#) has created a list of Arts and educational resources for kids and teens.

Physical Education

- [Action for Healthy Kids](#) offers a variety of resources for parents and families to keep their students happy and healthy.
- [SHAPE Vermont](#) has a lot of resources to keep students active during their spring break.

Wellness/Mindfulness

- Avoid Cabin Fever With These 125 Ideas to Keep Kids Entertained During the Coronavirus Crisis from [Parade.com](#).
- [GoNoodle®](#) engages 14 million kids every month with movement and mindfulness videos created by child development experts.

As parents and families are adjusting to their new normal, it's important to consider ways to make their lives less stressful. For families that may have no to low technology access, educators and schools should consider curating a list of ideas to make these activities equitable.

A school vacation is a time for families, students, and educators to take a break from their academic obligations and be present with their families. The activities included in this document are only offered as support to parents and families to keep their students mentally stimulated and engaged over the upcoming school vacation.