

# Strategies for Keeping Students Engaged When School is Closed

The schools in Needham will be closed for at least the upcoming three weeks. To keep your child engaged in some fun activities, we have curated a wide range of resources, and ideas for families.



## Preschool Enrichment Activities

The Needham Preschool has developed a set of Preschool Enrichment Activities and resources for families to access.

[Preschool Enrichment Activities](#)



## K-5 Literacy Activities

We encourage students to enjoy a wide variety of literacy activities on their own and with family members during this time. They can read and write for a variety of purposes each day, play language games, and sketch/illustrate their ideas. These literacy activities and conversations can happen in English or other languages. Here are some suggestions for families:

### **Scholastic Learn at Home**

Scholastic has created a *Learn at Home* website. This free resource provides families and caregivers with 20\* days of articles and stories, videos, and fun learning challenges. Children can complete them anytime, in any order. They can work on their own or together with you and your family and caregivers.

[Scholastic Letter to Families](#)

[Scholastics Teaching Remotely Resource](#)

### **Storyline Online** <https://www.storylineonline.net/library/>

Storyline Online is an award-winning children's literacy website featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations. Storyline Online is available for children, parents, and educators worldwide. Each book is accompanied by support materials, developed by a literacy specialist, that help strengthen comprehension, verbal and written skills, and a love of reading.



### Read Each Day:

- Read fiction books that you enjoy and then share your ideas with someone else.
- Read some nonfiction books to learn about a new subject and tell someone what you have learned.
- Reread a favorite book! Younger children especially benefit from rereading books several times to build fluency.
- Read a wide variety of texts such as magazines, cook books, newspapers, comics, joke books, and street signs!
- Read a poem from a book of poetry. Then practice writing your own!
- Read a book with friends or family! Discuss the pictures, characters, story, or facts that you have learned!
- Listen to an audiobook! There are a variety of online options for students to enjoy audio and video books.
  - <https://www.needhamma.gov/3037/Ebooks-Digital-Audiobooks-Magazines-Vide>
  - <https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fHome.aspx%3fcategoryID%3d13&categoryID=13>
  - <https://www.tales2go.com/audiobook-desktop-player/>

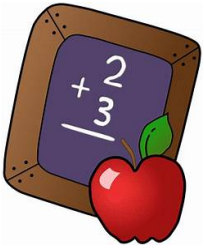


### Write Every Day:

- Write down your thoughts about what you have read. You might want to write about a review of the book, write about your favorite part, or use your creativity to write an alternate ending, an additional scene, or your own story inspired by the book!
- Young children can write about their books using words and illustrations.
- Write about your experiences in a journal or diary.
- Write a skit and act it out for family or friends.
- Younger students can practice forming letters--use crayons, pencils, chalks or draw in sand or shaving cream; for tips on how to write using the proper formation, check out the videos at the link below:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W0pNdWRhu2veeU9JMuFI8\\_KQ7AHOhtQt](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W0pNdWRhu2veeU9JMuFI8_KQ7AHOhtQt)

### Play games that enhance language, vocabulary, and spelling:

- Play Hangman, Scrabble, Taboo for Kids, Bananagrams or any other game in which you think and talk about words.



## **K-5 Math Activities**

We encourage students to enjoy a wide variety of math activities on their own and with family members during this time. They can reinforce their math fact fluency, play math games, and solve problems. Here are some suggestions for students at each grade level:

Kindergarten

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3

Grade 4

Grade 5

[K-5 Math Resources](#)

## **Digital Learning Resources**

All elementary students have access to a broad set of digital learning tools. Use this resource page as a portal to these tools: <http://bit.ly/nps-dig-tools>



## **Library and Other Resources**

The public and school libraries offer a wealth of resources that complement and supplement those listed above. The school library web sites all have links to a rich set of resources to do research, access project pages, and find ebooks. The links below provide quick access to your school library website:

Broadmeadow Elementary School	<a href="http://broadmeadow.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library">http://broadmeadow.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library</a>
Eliot Elementary School	<a href="http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library">http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library</a>
Mitchell Elementary School	<a href="http://mitchell.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library">http://mitchell.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library</a>
Newman Elementary School	<a href="http://newman.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library">http://newman.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library</a>
Sunita Williams Elementary School	<a href="http://sunitawilliams.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library">http://sunitawilliams.needham.k12.ma.us/classrooms/library</a>



## Public Library and Other Resources

In addition to school libraries, look to your public libraries for other resources. Access to public library resources will require a library card.

Needham Public Library	<a href="http://www.needhamma.gov/4747/Library">http://www.needhamma.gov/4747/Library</a>
NPS Ebooks, Digital Audiobooks, and Magazines, and Videos	<a href="http://www.needhamma.gov/3037/Ebooks-Digital-Audiobooks-Magazines-Vide">http://www.needhamma.gov/3037/Ebooks-Digital-Audiobooks-Magazines-Vide</a>
Boston Public Library	<a href="https://www.bpl.org/">https://www.bpl.org/</a>
BPL Online Resources for Teens	<a href="https://www.bpl.org/teen-subject/all-teen-resources/">https://www.bpl.org/teen-subject/all-teen-resources/</a>
BPL Online Resources for Kids	<a href="https://www.bpl.org/kids/">https://www.bpl.org/kids/</a>
BPL Overdrive ebooks & Audio Books	<a href="https://bpl.overdrive.com/library/kids">https://bpl.overdrive.com/library/kids</a>



## K-5 Science & Engineering

Here are some engaging and fun science activities

Resource	User name and Password
<a href="#">Mystery Science</a> video- based lessons and activities	<a href="mailto:sciencecenter@needham.k12.ma.us">sciencecenter@needham.k12.ma.us</a> Sciencecenter
<a href="#">Mystery Doug</a> - weekly video series with questions created by students	N/A. Free registration
<a href="#">Engineering is Elementary</a> variety of content connections to engineering curriculum	No log-in required
<a href="#">Generation Genius</a> K-5 videos and lessons	<a href="mailto:sciencecenter@needham.k12.ma.us">sciencecenter@needham.k12.ma.us</a> Sciencecenter
<a href="#">PBS Learning Media</a> - Contains videos, interactives, images, websites and collections.	N/A. Free registration



## **Special Area Subjects (Music, Art, PE, Spanish, Media, Technology)**

Special area teachers connected with each other and with classroom teachers to develop suggested activities in their respective areas. These activities will be communicated as part of those provided by the teacher on the days when those respective classes would have occurred.

## **Special Education/Student Support Resources**

Special educators will be reaching out directly to families to provide support for students to access activities including accommodations and modifications and to remain engaged in learning. Here are some resources for other support areas.



## **Speech and Language Resources**

As a district the Needham Public Schools Speech and Language Pathologists would like to provide you with some ideas to enrich your child's day with language while we are all home. Below you can find some general suggestions, using items you already have at home! If your child receives speech and language services in school, the SLP will be in touch next week to check in.

[Speech and Language Activities at Home](#)

[Preschool Speech and Language Activities](#)



## **Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy/Adapted Physical Ed Resources**

Below please find a link to some ideas to keep working on your child's OT/PT/APE related skills while school is closed. These activities are optional. Please feel free to reach out to your child's therapist with questions specific to your child.

[OT/PT/APE Activities at Home](#)



## **ELL (English Language Learner) Resources**

The Needham Public Schools ELL (English Language Learner) teachers would like to support you and your students while we are all at home. If you are able, this extra time at home can be a wonderful opportunity for your family to practice literacy skills in your home language! If you are interested in reinforcing your student's English skills, here are some resources organized by grade range and topic. This work is **optional**.

[ELL Enrichment Activities](#)



## Social Emotional

Included below are many resources to support your child's social-emotional well-being during this time. In addition to mindfulness and growth mindset activities, there are also links to coping strategies and resources for how to talk to children about COVID-19.

[Resources for Parents](#) - info and ideas for you and your children



### Mindfulness Activities:

Encourage children to check in with their body and notice how they feel before and after these activities.

INNER EXPLORER 5-10 minute Guided Audio Program <a href="https://innerexplorer.org/compass/family_onboarding">https://innerexplorer.org/compass/family_onboarding</a>	<a href="#">Flow</a>
<a href="#">Mindful Exercises For Children</a>	<a href="#">Create Your Own Glitter Jar</a>
"Just Breathe" by Julie Bayer Salzman & Josh Salzman (Wavecrest Films) -	<a href="#">MoveThisWorld: At Home Exercises</a>
<a href="#">Mind Yeti</a>	<a href="#">Kids Yoga</a>



### Growth Mindset Activities:

<a href="#">Your Brain Is Like a Muscle</a>	Discussion Questions: Why does Mojo want to leave school? Can you sometimes relate to how Mojo is feeling? Do you think Mojo can become smarter? Why or why not? What subject do you feel frustrated by sometimes? How might you get better at that subject?
<a href="#">The Incredible Power of Yet</a>	Discussion Questions: What should you do if you are stuck on a project, math problem, or worksheet question? Think of a time you were afraid to ask for help. Why did you feel afraid? Why is the word "yet" so powerful? Think of something you don't know how to do "yet" and discuss it with someone at your house.
<a href="#">The Magic of Mistakes</a>	Discussion Questions: What does the phrase "mistakes can make you smarter" mean to you? Think of a recent mistake you made. What happened? How could you learn from it? If you were working on a project and kept making mistakes, what would you do?

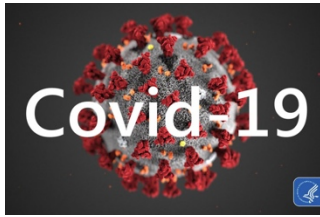


## Suggestions for Parents Regarding Social Media / News

Here are some articles regarding social media and cell phone use that offers tips for how to monitor online use while home!

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/help-my-kid-wants-to-use-social-media>

<https://www.common sense media.org/cellphone-parenting>



## Resources for Covid-19 and Talking to Your Child About It

<a href="#">National Association of School Psychologists</a>	<a href="#">Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource</a>
Child Mind Institute	<a href="#">Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus</a>
Psychology Today	<a href="#">How to Talk to Your Kids about COVID-19</a>
Brain Pop Video for Kids	<a href="#">Coronavirus</a>
<a href="http://www.verywellfamily.com">www.verywellfamily.com</a>	<a href="#">Talk to your kids about coronavirus</a>
4 minute video. Social story for kids and great for parents to watch too.	<a href="https://youtu.be/kiVpWZBXLug">https://youtu.be/kiVpWZBXLug</a>
COVID-19 Explanation for kids (Spanish)	<a href="#">El coronavirus explicado para niños</a>
ZeroToThree: Tips for Families	<a href="#">Tips for Families - Preschool</a>
Just for Kids: Exploring Coronavirus	<a href="#">NPR Infographic</a>
NPR: What Parents Need to Know about Coronavirus	<a href="https://www.npr.org/2020/03/13/814615866/coronavirus-and-parenting-what-you-need-to-know-now">https://www.npr.org/2020/03/13/814615866/coronavirus-and-parenting-what-you-need-to-know-now</a>



Ways to structure the days at home with kids: <https://www.upworthy.com/tips-for-parents-coronavirus>

Helping Children Cope with Emergencies:

<https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html>

### Teaching Tolerance Activities:

[Student Tasks](#)

<https://www.tolerance.org/learning-plan/learning-at-home>





## Other Things to Check Out (Fun and interesting distractions)

Free online coloring pages: <http://www.hellokids.com/>

Free Museums you can visit online: <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/75809/12-world-class-museums-you-can-visit-online>

10 Great Free Websites for Elementary School:

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/top-picks/10-great-free-websites-for-elementary-school>

WGBH Distance Learning Resources PreK-12

<https://www.wgbh.org/foundation/wgbh-to-provide-prek-12-distance-learning-support-for-students-in-massachusetts>

The Imagination Neighborhood

<https://www.imagineneighborhood.org/>

### Suggestions for Games, Movies, Books, TV shows

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|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Hide and Seek</li><li>● Puzzles</li><li>● Read stories together</li><li>● Go on a nature hike: find signs of spring</li><li>● Arts and Crafts</li><li>● Make "forts" outside out of sticks or "forts" inside with pillows/blankets</li><li>● Blow bubbles</li><li>● Play catch outside</li><li>● Ride a bike/scooter etc.</li><li>● Charades</li><li>● Cook together</li><li>● Clean out a room or closet together (and rediscover an old toy)</li><li>● Do some chores together/give your child a "job" (raking, fold laundry, vacuum, clean the car)</li><li>● Write letters/draw pictures to send to grandparents or others</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Read to or "tutor" a younger sibling</li><li>● "Play" school with siblings (or have the parent be the "student")</li><li>● Play restaurant</li><li>● Use recyclables/boxes to make things</li><li>● Play board games or card games</li><li>● Talk to your child about what you played with/did for fun when you were a child (before too many electronic choices)</li><li>● Listen to music and play "freeze" dance (stop the music and "freeze" at various times)</li><li>● Look at travels sites/photos and dream together about places to visit</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Watch one of your favorite childhood movies or shows together with your children.</li><li>● Think about acts of kindness you and your child can do for others</li><li>● Look at family photos albums and/or family videos</li><li>● Make fairy or leprechaun small "houses" outside with sticks, leaves, rocks and other natural materials outside</li><li>● Build a "city" with legos, blocks, recyclable materials, toy cars, etc.</li><li>● Plant flower or vegetable seeds seeds in a pot to later plant outside</li><li>● Skype with grandparents, other relatives and friends</li></ul> |
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