

Supporting Students at Home: Pre-K

Originally developed by Howard County Public Schools; adapted for Denver Public Schools

Overview

This guide is designed to provide ideas for engaging children in learning activities while schools are closed for COVID-19. The activities listed below are intended to help keep children intellectually active while they are at home. The activity ideas do not represent the first level of instruction that occurs in schools. Best practices for first instruction will occur when students return to school.

The activities and tasks that children complete at home will not be used as assessment or counted toward part of the student's grades. Families should review the list and select options that are relevant and accessible. The activities can be done more than once.

Sample Daily Schedule

8:00-9:00	Wake Up & Get Ready	Eat breakfast, get dressed, get ready for the day.
9:00-10:00	Academic Time	Choose one or more of the options from the list below.
10:00-10:30	Free Choice	Choose an activity such as legos, drawing, cooking, puzzles, board games.
10:30-11:00	Screen Time	Choose one or more screen based activities from the list below.
11:00-12:00	Lunch & Free Time	Eat lunch, go for a walk or play outside.
12:00-1:00	Academic Time	Choose one or more of the options from the list below.
1:00-1:30	Free Choice	Choose an activity such as legos, drawing, cooking, puzzles, board games.
1:30-2:00	Reading	Read a book or use Sora (OverDrive) to read or listen to an eBook or audiobook.

2:00-2:30	Outdoor Time	Go for a walk or play outside.
2:30-3:00	Screen Time	Choose one or more screen based activities from the list below.
3:00-4:00	Free Choice	Choose an activity such as legos, drawing, cooking, puzzles, board games

Academic Activity Choices

Each instructional area has a “choice board” of options. Consider choosing a variety of activities from a few different content areas each day. These options include opportunities for physical activity, reading books, and using technology, online resources, and television programming. Conversations with your child about the activities they are completing will help to support communication skills and understanding.

Please use the following chart (originated by Howard County Public Schools and adapted for use by Denver Public Schools) to help your child select a variety of activities each day to encourage continuity of instruction in all areas:

Topic	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Language & Literacy	Read and/or listen to books every day. Use the Sora (OverDrive) app or website to access the DPS collection of eBooks and audiobooks using a computer, phone, or tablet.	Spell your name with magnets. Find objects that start with the same letter. Make up words that rhyme with your name. Repeat with family members' names.	Practice writing your name and the names of your family members. Draw pictures to match. Turn the pictures into a story to read together.	Sing songs with your family. Play word and sound games. Make up silly sounding words.
Mathematics	Go on a shape hunt. How many shapes can you find? Try to find circles,	Count items around the house. How many plates do you have at dinner? How	Put items such as socks, stickers, toys into groups. Count the number of items	Build structures with blocks, legos, or empty boxes. Compare the sizes.



	triangles, squares, and rectangles. Then find spheres, cubes, and pyramids.	many socks do you have in your drawer? How many teddy bears?	in each group. Which group has more or less items?	How high is your tower? How wide is your tower? Draw your tower.
Science	Keep a home science journal! Add an entry each day by writing or drawing. What do you wonder? What can you observe (see, hear, feel)?	Do you have a pet at home? Do you see any animals outside? Or, do you have a favorite stuffed animal? Draw a picture that describes what they are doing, using as much detail as possible.	Think about cause and effect. What do you think would happen if you pushed softly on a ball? If you pushed hard on a ball? What other toys can you push or pull in different ways?	Use your senses to explore. In your home, what feels soft, hard, smooth? What tastes bitter, sweet, sour? What makes a loud sound? What makes a soft sound?
Social Studies	Look at family photos and talk about the people and places. Describe the places. How are they the same or different from your home?	Make a list of simple chores and tasks to do around the house. Keep track of what you do. Can you teach someone else how to do the chores?	Play a new board game every day. What are the rules you have to follow? How are the games the same and different? What game is your favorite?	Talk and read about different jobs in the community. How do those jobs help people? What job would you like to do? Why?
Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	Sort fruits and vegetables. Help make a healthy snack to share with your family and friends.	Build eye-hand coordination by playing catch, jumping rope, and tracing letters.	Do activities that help build large muscles: walk, hop, skip, gallop, tiptoe. Practice moving like your favorite animals.	Do activities that help small muscles grow: drawing, painting, using scissors to cut, build with clay.
Fine Arts	Use different household items to tap a beat. Make up a song. Play loud and soft sounds.	Use water, food color, popsicle sticks, and ice molds to make ice paint. Paint pictures for your friends and family.	Listen and dance to different types of music (e.g., pop, hip-hop, country, classical, R&B). Pick a different style every day.	Act out your favorite story by dressing up in costumes. Or, make and use puppets to act out your favorite stories.



Digital Resources

Here are a few suggested resources that can be accessed digitally

- [Sora \(OverDrive\) eBooks and audiobooks](#) (titles available in English, Spanish, and several other languages)
- DPS LION Databases: [PebbleGo](#), [Britannica Fundamentals](#)
- [PBSKids](#)
- [Denver Public Library Phone A Story](#) (available in English, Spanish, Amharic and Vietnamese)
- [Scholastic Learn at Home](#)
- [DPS' Academic Technology Menu](#):
 - Select School Breakdowns → Your School → Go!
 - **"Parent Consent Required"** tab: Resources approved via parent consent at your school
 - **"Parent Consent Not Required"** tab: District-approved resources

Ideas for activities for parents in Spanish

- DPS LION Databases: [PebbleGo](#), [Britannica Escolar](#)
- [Las Provincias](#)
- [Bebesymas](#)
- [Sapos Y Princesas](#)

Educational TV

PBS has a variety of educational TV. Here is how you can access PBS in the Denver area.

- Over the Air (Antenna)
 - Rocky Mountain PBS: Channel **6.1**
 - RMPBS KIDS: Channel **6.2**
- Cable TV (Comcast)
 - Rocky Mountain PBS: Channel **6 & 658**
 - RMPBS KIDS: Channel **245**
 - Create/World*: Channel **248**
 - On Demand: Channel **1** ("Your Colorado")
- Satellite (DIRECTV and Dish Network)
 - Rocky Mountain PBS: Channel **6**