

# Selected Best Practices and Resources To Encourage Learning at Home For Children in Pre-K–5th Grade



It is the desire of the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) to help educators deliver resources to families to provide children with consistency and a sense of safety and well-being during the Governor's closure of West Virginia schools. It is especially important for children in the early and elementary learning grades to have a sense of safety, routine, and continuity of learning.

## Considerations:

- » It is recommended that regular correspondence that meets the needs and accessibility of families (online, US mail, phone calls, etc.) occurs throughout this time when West Virginia children are away from school.
- » Resources and materials provided are for all students. Educators are encouraged to collaborate with the special educators who serve children with disabilities at their school to ensure support and guidance related to individual children can be maximized.
- » To accompany the family engagement resources that educators may have already found or developed to help ensure children receive opportunities to engage in the learning process while at home, the WVDE has provided a listing of selected resources and experiences that are applicable for families to use at home with their children. Some of these resources require the educator to go online to websites to get new ideas for family engagement, some are online resources for families, and others are completely screen-free ideas and resources for educators to share with families. To access these resources, visit <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Screen-Free-Opportunities.pdf>.



### About Screen Time for Young Learners

To assure children in the early grades (pre-k-2 in particular) are engaged in active learning, it is important to review the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance for families regarding screen time with young children. The AAP recommends limiting screen time to 1 hour per day for children ages 2 to 5 years old (and that parents should co-view media with children. For children 6 and older, the AAP recommends placing "consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media."

While the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limits to screen time for children in the early learning grades, it is important to note that educators and families can utilize online resources that provide tips and other ideas for non-screen related, child-friendly experiences to do with children.

Selected best practices and resources appropriate for pre-k through 5th grade are identified below. The links provided to access materials can be shared in hard copy with families, or the resources may be shared electronically with families with the accompanying explanation or descriptions.

### Resources Educators Can Utilize to Encourage Family Engagement\*

Description	Grade Band
The National Institute for Early Education Research has developed a COVID-19 Resources page with numerous resources, many of which are appropriate for family engagement and enrichment experiences.	Pre-K–3rd grade
The state of Connecticut has developed a database of hundreds of developmentally appropriate family engagement resources and organized them into 11 separate categories, including one on early childhood education.	Pre-k–2nd grade
Get Ready to Read! Activity Cards are fun, engaging, child-friendly early literacy activities to try with 3- to 5-year-old children. They'll give you new ideas for bringing literacy activities into your classroom, home, and daily routine. The cards were created with both parents and educators in mind, and they're free and easy to print or review online.	Pre-K-2nd grade
Community Playthings has many resources for family engagement, including The Potential of Playdough (with recipe) and more information about the importance of Creative Clay, Dough, and Modeling Experiences	Pre-K–2nd grade
The U.S. Department of Education’s Talk, Read, and Sing Together Every Day! Tip Sheets for Families, Caregivers and Early Learning Educators provide families, caregivers and early educators with research-based tips for talking, reading, and singing with young children every day beginning from birth.	Pre-K –5th grade
Storyline Online is produced by the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television’s SAG-AFTRA Foundation as part of its children’s literacy program. The site streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children’s books alongside creatively produced illustrations. Readers include Viola Davis, Chris Pine, Lily Tomlin, Kevin Costner, Annette Bening, James Earl Jones, Betty White and others.	Pre-K–5th grade
The National Institute for the Education of Young Children has a plethora of family engagement resources on their topics web page. Two specific resources include Baking Math for Families and Young Children, that promotes cooking experiences with children, and Support Math with Materials in Your Home, which focuses on the use of “found objects” at home to support children’s math development.	Pre-K–3rd grade
The Smithsonian’s National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute website has links to multiple National Zoo Animal Webcams for children to observe and discuss with family members.	Pre-K – 5th grade
WV Library Commission’s WV Info Depot provides access to EbscoHost/Explora/Scholastic Go. The username is WEST, and the new password is VIRGINIA20! (0=zero). To access World Book Online, the username is 4WEST and the password is VIRGINIA.	Pre-K–12th grade
BrainPop has a Home to School Connection webpage that includes brain-based resources for family engagement for all grade levels in the areas of language and literacy, math, social and emotional learning, and science.	Pre-K–12th grade

\*A compilation of resources has been developed by the WVDE Office of Early & Elementary Learning to expand upon the broad resources found above for families with children in grades pre-k through 5. To access this compilation, go to <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Digital-Literacy-Resources.pdf>.