Tools to Strengthen Resident Families & Students During COVID-19 & Beyond

by HUD Choice Neighborhoods, with Windy Lopez-Aflitto of Learning Heroes, & Econometrica
Purpose: Supporting Our Kids’ Education

- COVID-19 hit low-income and minority children's learning hard
- Catching up will take everyone’s help
- PHAs and partners are in unique position to reach some of most vulnerable

- Toolkit equips PHAs and partners with:
  - Examples from PHAs and communities
  - National resources
What’s in the Toolkit?

- Supporting the Role of Parents
  - Family Flyers
- Helping Kids Catch Up
- Developing Out of School Time Programming and Tutoring
- Learning HUB Case Studies
Helping Your Child Learn During and After COVID-19: Family Tips and Resources – Quick Tips Guide

Keeping children engaged and motivated with learning after this past year can be challenging, but there are big and small ways that families can help kids be ready and excited to learn. Here are top tips and resource links to help support your child’s education:

**Identify a space for learning at home and create a daily schedule**
For remote/hybrid learning at home, having a designated learning space (such as a place at the table or pillows for a reading nook) and a regular schedule can help your child be ready for learning.

**Help your child feel like they can be successful at what they are learning**
Check out these ask-a-teacher videos to get practical advice on keeping up your child’s motivation to learn, assisting with schoolwork, and more. Also, focus on praising your child’s effort (not just success) so that your child will keep trying new and challenging tasks.

**Keep calm and repeat directions**
Keeping a calm tone, repeating directions, being silly or calling for a break all help avoid tantrums and challenging situations.

**Focus on your child’s grade-level needs**
Use this Readiness Check to see how your child is doing with key math and reading skills, pinpoint their needs, and get targeted resources or make a plan with their teacher.

**Communicate with your child’s teacher**
Ask your child’s teacher about what skills your child needs to learn, and share your insights about what your child likes and needs help with.

**Identify and talk about feelings**
Caregivers and children are stressed, but sharing those feelings can help diffuse them and help your family deal with the impact of the pandemic.

**Take simple actions during the summer**
Turn everyday routines into learning moments, find summer resources, and lean into your child’s interests. Spanish speakers can also find learning resources at Colorin Colorado and Wide Open School.
My son doesn’t enjoy reading. What can I do to help him reach the reading level for his grade? -- Bridget, Minneapolis, MN, children in 4th and 7th grades

Resource Example: Ask-A-Teacher Videos
Help your child learn through everyday moments

There are resources to help you assist your child with math and reading schoolwork. But it's also important to know that you have the skills to help your child learn just by creating a love of reading and interest in learning new things:

Resource Example: Learning Resources
Resource Example: Practical Tips When Kids Aren’t Listening
Resource Example: Readiness Check

Help your child with math and reading at home.

Make Summer Learning Fun and Motivating

Get a quick gut check on how your child is doing with key math and reading skills. Find activities and videos from Khan Academy and more to keep learning all summer!
Ideas for Sharing Flyers

Showing Is Better Than Telling:

- Equip partners and resident councils
- Identify tips relevant to individual parents
- Host a demo session
- Encourage family social media posts
- Promote family support groups
Helping Kids Catch Up

Strategies to Combat Learning Loss:

- Tutoring
- Grade level reading exposure
- Partnerships with community organizations
- Supporting literacy at home
Tutoring:

- Key elements of effective tutoring
  - Frequency
  - Training Volunteers
  - Relationships, etc.

- Resources:
  - Program Design,
  - Training, Etc.
Developing Out-of-School Time Programming & Tutoring 2

- Engaging families: what parents value
  - Kids’ passions, individuality, social relationships
  - Is my child happy? Do they want to go?

- Case Study: Atlanta Housing, Atlanta Public Schools, & United Way
Learning Hubs

• Case Studies:
  • Phoenix: Phoenix Housing & Dept of Rec
  • Omaha: Seventy North & MCC
  • Allegheny: DHS, after school providers, etc.


For more information about Choice Neighborhoods visit: www.hud.gov/cn