Remote Instruction Resources
for Family Literacy Programs
Updated 5-27-21

COMMUNICATING WITH FAMILIES

- **Remind** (https://www.remind.com/) – Allows two-way communication on a phone app for class updates, assignments, instruction, and more.

- **Google Hangouts** (https://hangouts.google.com/) – Communicate with students through this software that allows conferencing, one-on-one conversations, and, if needed, a private room for ongoing conversations.

- **Google Voice Help** (https://support.google.com/voice/answer/115061?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en) – Provides a free number for calls, text messages, and voicemail. The app can be used on smartphones and computers.

- **WhatsApp** (https://www.whatsapp.com/) –Allows phone app users to send text and voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations, and other media. Useful for group conversations.

- **WeChat** (https://www.wechat.com/en/) – Use this messaging phone app that is a Chinese multi-purpose messaging, social media, and mobile payment app. Can also be used on a PC or Mac.

- **GoToMeeting** (https://www.gotomeeting.com/) – Offers video, audio, or web meetings from a conference room. 14-day free trial available, otherwise for purchase.

- **Zoom** (https://zoom.us/signup) – Allows conferencing for meetings and individual lessons on the computer or phone. Basic Zoom is free for up to 100 participants. Directions for video breakout rooms: https://support.zoom.us/hc/enus/articles/206476093-Getting-Started-with-Breakout-Rooms

ADULT EDUCATION AND ESL RESOURCES

Instructors
- **Commonlit** (https://www.commonlit.org) – Access tools to develop an effective literacy program, including information for teachers and administrators.

    - **Tips for remote learning** (https://blog.commonlit.org/these-commonlit-digitalfeatures-make-remote-learning-possible-bdbdc4715728) – Blog posts for assistance using the Commonlit tools.

- **EdTech Center - ABE distance learning resource site** (https://edtech.worlded.org/tipsfor-distance-learning/) – Find tips and resources for rapidly setting up distance learning opportunities.

- **Edweb** (https://home.edweb.net/) – Get valuable resources for online learning and collaboration.

- **English classes at ESLgo.com** (http://eslgo.com/) – Find free online English classes for students and teachers.

- **English Club** (https://www.englishclub.com/) – Help a person either teach or learn English.

- **English learning resource** (https://www.rong-chang.com/) – Practice reading and speaking through conversations and passages; applicable for both children and adults. Levels are for beginner and intermediate learners. Readings can be translated into French, Spanish, and Arabic.

- **Google Classroom** (https://classroom.google.com/) – Use Classroom to make connections easier between learners and instructors. This is ideal for schools, non-profits, and anyone with a personal Google account. Classroom helps create classes, distribute assignments, communicate and stay organized. An instructor can upload Youtube videos of lessons and do live sessions with accompanying assignments.

- **Idd blog** (https://www.iddblog.org/videoconferencing-alternatives-how-low-bandwidthteaching-will-save-us-all/) – Consider factors of bandwidth and immediacy as you design online courses. This article provides information about these factors and a graph reflects on the pros and cons of each factor.

- **¡SLCollective** (https://en.islcollective.com/) – Discover a collection of ESL worksheets, Powerpoints, and video lessons.

- **Literacy Minnesota**
    - **ESL Storybank** (https://www.literacymn.org/sites/default/files/beginning_esl_story_bank.pdf) – Find a collection of short stories written specifically for adult ESL learners. This is part of the Minnesota Literacy Council's Adult ESL Curriculum.
    - **Educator Resources** (https://www.literacymn.org/educator-resources?audience%5B891%5D=891&audience%5B892%5D=892&format%5B883%5D=883&format%5B886%5D=886&format%5B885%5D=885&sort_bef_combine=title%20ASC) – Find a vast array of teaching resources for ESL and ABE.

- **Marshall Adult Education** (http://resources.marshalladulteducation.org/reading_skills_home.htm) – Find leveled reading selections that are appropriate for adult learners.

- **Quizlet**– https://quizlet.com/ - Develop flashcards and games to make learning easy. [cut and paste URL if it does not work].

- **Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab** (https://www.esl-lab.com/) – Engage in online English listening comprehension quizzes and activities for ESL and EFL learners.

- **Reading Skills for Today's Adults** (https://www.readingskills4today.com/) – Access leveled stories for the adult learner. Currently, site is under partial construction.

- **Read Theory** (www.readtheory.org) – Provides personalized reading comprehension exercises for K-12 and ESL students. This free, adaptive tool is great for assessing and tracking student reading performance.

- **Tools and platforms for distance learning** (https://www.proliteracy.org/health) – Helps programs and learners continue learning through distance education with resources, tips, and platforms.

- **Townsend Press Learning Center** (https://www.townsendpress.net/home) – Targets educators and students using Townsend Press materials. Includes online books and reading/writing resources, online assessments, and video lessons. Time can be time tracked for adult learners at all levels. This platform is free through the end of June.

Learners
- **Duolingo** (https://www.duolingo.com/) – Offers free lessons to learn a language.

- **Khan Academy** (https://www.khanacademy.org/) – Use these free education tools for adult learners.

- **Learning Chocolate** (https://www.learningchocolate.com/) – Use this vocabulary learning platform to aid understanding with written words and audio. Great resource for beginning ELL students.

- **USA Learns** (https://www.usalearns.org/) – Offers free video lessons and activities to learn English and become a U.S. citizen. This site tracks time on task.

- **Webinar Tutorials –** Learn to set up accounts and classes on Khan Academy and USA Learns. This webinar tutorial is presented by Chuck Klinger from TIU11 Distance Learning Technical Assistance Project in Pennsylvania. Keep in mind the intended audience is Pennsylvania Department of Education-funded adult education programs; however, information can be applied to instructor's situation to help begin classes.
    - **Khan Academy** – (webinar on 3/23/2020) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SBgN2UklYAZY2qQKfChxsZKX8qolMs3A/view
    - **USA Learns** – (webinar on 3/24/2020) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GZtGCkTGslpiIJ6atIUu6fPImtTy_MeN/view

PARENT EDUCATION RESOURCES

Instructors
- **Center for Effective Parenting** (https://parenting-ed.org/for-parents/links-for-parents/) – Lists parent information websites that include general parenting information; family fun sites; mother specific sites; father specific sites; new & expectant parents; and educational issues.

- **Mental Health American** (https://www.mhanational.org/mental-health-month-2019-toolkit-download) – May is mental health month and you can find the *4 Mind 4 Body Outreach Toolkit* (https://www.mhanational.org/sites/default/files/MHM_2019_FULL_TOOLKIT_FINAL.pdf) to use with families.

- **National Center for Improving Literacy** (https://improvingliteracy.org/) – Access this resource to help families learn how to improve reading outcomes for students with literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia.

- **Parent Toolkit** (https://www.parenttoolkit.com/) – Access this one-stop resource about child development with parents in mind.

- **Pennsylvania Department of Education Resources** (https://www.paadultedresources.org/family-literacy/) – Learn about activities and lessons for adult education, interactive literacy activities, and parent education.

- **Ready Rosie** (https://healthyathome.readyrosie.com/en/) – Access this free toolkit with information and resources for parents to support children in their care, including learning at home, prevention and care, and emotional well-being. Site available in English and Spanish.

Families
- **FathersRead365** (http://father365.com/) – The FathersRead365 encourages fathers to read with their children each day from birth.

- **Learning Heroes** (https://bealearninghero.org/readiness-roadmap/#) – Use this site to help keep children on track while school is closed. Tips are provided to help with math, reading, life skills, and more. Site available in English and Spanish.

- **Kids Read 2 Kids** (https://kidsread2kids.com/) – Learn about building children's reading confidence and self-esteem. This website is particularly relevant to families who have children with reading challenges, such as dyslexia.

- **PNC Grow Up Great** (https://www.pnc.com/en/about-pnc/corporate-responsibility/grow-up-great.html) –Discover lots of great resources for families, including *Everyday Tips* for learning, activities for exploring math (*Peg + Cat*), and *Sesame Street*® *Learning Resources*.

- **Raising a Reader** (https://www.raisingreaders.org/promoting-a-love-of-reading/parentsfamilies/) –Access parent tips for reading with children (8 languages available).

- **Reading Rockets Parent Reading tips** (https://www.readingrockets.org/article/readingtips-parents-multiple-languages#languages) – Learn about parent reading tips for children who are babies, toddlers, pre-K, K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades (available in 12 languages).

- **Sesame Street in Communities** (https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/) – Access activities and tips for both families and providers, such as tips for staying healthy.

- **Talking about COVID-19 and Healthy Behaviors**

  - **Teaching Young People about COVID-19** (https://www.bigdealbook.com/newsletters/k12_technology/?show=teaching_young_people_about_covid-19/b3984de7d-11b5-45cdb5d3-7d87b01d1e0c) – Access a link to a comic that explains the coronavirus. The comic is also published in Chinese.

- BrainPOP
  (https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/) –
  watch videos and read information about viruses and about COVID-19.

- **Thrive Initiative** (https://thrive.psu.edu/) – Learn about programs for parents and caregivers to learn and practice effective strategies for raising healthy children.

EARLY CHILDHOOD/SCHOOL-AGE RESOURCES

Instructors (to review for learners)

- **¡Colorín colorado!** (https://www.colorincolorado.org/) – Targets for educators and families of English language learners. Site includes ELL basics, school support, and teaching ELLs. Site available in English and Spanish.

- **CPALMS** (https://www.cpalms.org/Public/) – Use this online toolbox of information, vetted resources, and interactive tools to help students learn. This resource is primarily free but requires a login account for non-Florida learners and educators.

- **Khan Academy Kids** (https://learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids/) – Access free online education on a variety of subjects to help children in school.

- **PBS Learning Media** (https://witf.pbslearningmedia.org/) – Offers free, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans. For pre-K to grade 12.

- **Scholastic Learn at home**
  (https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html) – Find daily projects for grades pre-K to grade 9. Also includes resources for parents and teachers.

- **Tech & Learning** (https://www.techlearning.com) – Find remote teaching tips. Provides free e-learning resources for schools.

- **Various Education Companies** (http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com) – Find free resources from education companies due to school closures.

- **Special Education**
  - **Illinois Autism Partnership** (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O-186CJ3MmtUZuoCX_oRlR1Dgzqc5RmkYUdTKm_dQ4E/edit) – List of websites and resources that are beneficial for children with autism.
  - **Special Education websites** (TheSpedGuru.com) – List of websites targeted to children with disabilities. Includes resources for many youths

- **Wide Open School** (https://wideopenschool.org/) – Powered by Common Sense Media, this site provides a breadth of information, links, and websites for children pre-K to 5th grade and 6th to 12th grade. The site is geared to both educators and families and covers topics, including get started learning at home, access for all students, field trips, emotional well-being, special needs, virtual classroom setup, reading and writing, get moving, and English language learners.

https://ed.psu.edu/research-grants/centers-institutes/goodling-institute

- **Zero to Three (**https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/parent-favorites**)** – Explore a collection of our highest trending resources.

Children (parents can do these with their children for ILA)

- **ABC Mouse Early Learning Academy (**https://www.abcmouse.com/abt/homepage**)** – Engage in 30 days of learning with a curriculum for children ages 2 to 8. Focus is reading, math, science, and art/colors.

- **ABCya.com (**https://www.abcya.com/**)** – Provides over 400 fun and educational games for Pre-K through 6th grade. Activities are designed by parents and educators.

- **Brainfuse Online Tutoring (**http://home.brainfuse.com/**)** – Offers online tutoring for school-age and higher education individuals. There may be a fee for the tutoring.

- **Cool Kid Facts (**https://www.coolkidfacts.com/**)** – Enjoy this free resource with fun facts on animals, plants, science, geography, and history. For 1st to 8th grade.

- **Cool Math (**https://www.coolmath.com/**)** – Discover an "amusement park of math and more" where children can play online math games.

- **Grammar and Word Games (**https://unscrambler.co/grammar-word-games-language-arts/ **)** – Play grammar and word games at home to improve language skills such as parts of speech, nouns and pronouns, and punctuation.

- **Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems! (**https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/**)** - Learn to draw, doodle, and explore new ways of drawing/writing through Mo's studio virtually once a day for the next few weeks.

- **Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids (**https://www.almanac.com/kids**)** – Engage in learning with a twist with riddles, puzzles, a question of the day, a timeline of interesting history facts, sky events, and weather conditions to track at home.

- **PBS Kids (**https://pbskids.org/**)** – Play and learn with activities for children, including TV shows on PBS Kids, as well as skill development (i.e., literacy, science, reading, math, music, creativity), and learning "word of the week" (https://pbskids.org/apps/filter/episode/).

- **Prodigy games (**https://play.prodigygame.com/**)** – Engage in fun, curriculum-aligned math activities.

- **Reading Promise (**https://www.readingpromise.org/summerlearning)** – Engage in a new learning adventure with weekly games, activities, and more!

- **Readworks.org (**https://www.readworks.org/**)** – Find free content, curriculum, and tools to assist teaching and learning from kindergarten to grade 12. Great for reading comprehension for adult and child learners. Daily articles available and are pre-recorded so students can work on comprehension.
  - **ReadWorks Remote Learning tips** (https://about.readworks.org/remote_learning.html#recorded) – Access the remote

learning webinar series that provides research-based ideas for supporting learning. Start with *Webinar 1: Effective Remote Learning*.

- **Science News for Students** (https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/) – Explore up-to-date scientific trends, like the decline of the honeybee population. Good for elementary students.

- **School House Rock Videos** (https://youtu.be/FFroMQlKiag) – Watch the famous School House Rock videos, including *I'm just a Bill, Conjunction Junction,* and *Multiplication*.

- **Sesame Street** (https://www.sesamestreet.org/) – Access preschool games, videos and coloring pages.

- **Starfall** (https://www.starfall.com/) – Access a place to help children learn to read. Targeted for children preschool to 3rd grade.

- **Special Education**
  o **Storyline online** (https://www.storylineonline.net/) – Find free videos of narrators reading children's books aloud. Great for children with learning disabilities such as dyslexia.
  o **Do2Learn** (https://do2learn.com/) – Access free pages with social skills and behavioral regulation activities and guidance, through songs and games, communication cards, and academic material, to name a few.

- **Squiggle Park** (https://www.squigglepark.com//) – Access reading skill building activities for ages 3 to 8+ or access *Dreamscape* for grades 2 to 8.

- **Typing Club** (https://www.typingclub.com/) – Learn to type for free.

INTERACTIVE LITERACY ACTIVITY RESOURCES

Instructors
- **Adobe Spark** (https://spark.adobe.com/) – Create pre-recorded videos that are up to 10 minutes long. Videos can include photos and video clips or record a story being read.

- **Boeing & Discover Education Future U** (https://www.boeingfutureu.com/) – Use this website to find tools to inspire students to collaborate and problem-solve. Go on virtual field trips to explore new places. Geared to students who are grades 6 to 12.

- **National Center for Families Learning – 30 Days of Families Learning Together** (http://30days.familieslearning.org/) – Engage in a month's worth of family literacy activities that help families imagine, play, and learn together. Instructors can help families go through the slides together through the website on the computer or phone.
  o Spanish version (pdf) – http://30days.familieslearning.org/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2014/10/NCFL30Days-es.pdf

Families
- **Audible** (https://stories.audible.com/start-listen) – Stream stories for free while schools are closed due to Covid-19. Stories are in up to six different languages.

https://ed.psu.edu/research-grants/centers-institutes/goodling-institute

- **Dial a Story** (https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/services/dial-a-story.jsp) – Listen to a story by phone anytime of the day. Available in 16 languages.

- **Epic!** (https://www.getepic.com/) – Access instantly free digital books for children 12 and under. Subscription required for parents, but a 30-day free trial period is available.

- **Free Library of Philadelphia** (https://www.freelibrary.org/) – Access free digital books and, if needed, apply for online for a library card.

- **Highlights for Kids** (https://www.highlightskids.com/) – Find ways to play, read, and make crafts with children, such as matching games, art activities, animated stories, and science experiments.

- **International Children's Digital Library** (http://en.childrenslibrary.org/) – Explore this collection of digital of books that represent historical and contemporary books from around the world.

- **Open Culture** (http://www.openculture.com/2016/08/enter-an-archive-of-6000-historicalchildrens-books-all-digitized-and-free-to-read-online.html) – Discover 6,000 historical children's books, all digitized and free to read online.

- **Reading is Fundamental** (https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/parents) – Learn about reading resources, such as books for children, activity sheets, puzzle tips, and so much more!

- **Read Write Think** (http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/) – Find parent and afterschool resources, including fun activities to suggested books.

- **Unite for Literacy** (https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/) – Look through the large collection of books that are either narrated or for the family to read together. The books can be narrated in over 40+ languages.

- **Wonderopolis** (https://wonderopolis.org/) – Explore the wonder of the day. Each day a new question is posted, and the answer is explored in a number of ways.

- **Wow in the World Podcasts** (https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510321/wow-in-the-world) – Join two hosts as they guide curious kids and their grown-ups on a journey into the wonders of the world around them.

Additional ILA Resources of museums, zoos, and other fun sites
- **Animals & Zoos** – Access information about various zoos and learn about animals and view live animal cams. A few examples include:
    - **Atlantic Zoo Panda Cam** (https://zooatlanta.org/panda-cam/)
    - **Houston Zoo Live Animal Cams** (https://www.houstonzoo.org/explore/webcams/)
    - **San Diego Zoo** (https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos)
    - **Wolf Conservation Center** (https://nywolf.org/meet-our-wolves/webcams/)
    - **Cornell Lab Ornithology** (https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/) – A virtual window into the natural world of birds. Includes live video cams and video highlights of barred owls, red-tailed hawks, and other birds.

- **British Museum** (https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11) – Engage and experience the unique collection through resources, sessions and gallery visits.

- **Exploratorium** (https://www.exploratorium.edu/) – Learn about science, art, and human perception by exploring the huge collection of online experiences and teaching resources.

- **How Stuff Works** (https://www.howstuffworks.com/) – Allow your curiosity to run wild on this website that answers questions about topics, such as cars, culture, entertainment, science, technology, money, and more.

- **NASA Kids Club** (https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html) – Play games and learn about NASA. Features of this site may or may not work on a phone or tablet.

- **National Geographic Kids** (https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/) – Learn about fun and interesting topics, including animals, earth day, heroes, homework help, and fun quizzes.

- **National Geographic Resources for Families** (https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/in-the-news/coronavirus.html) – Find parenting articles, study tips, science experiments, videos, and more.

- **National Park Service Virtual Tours – a few examples:**
  - **Yellowstone National Park** (https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm)
  - **Gettysburg** (https://www.nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/national-cemetery-virtualtour.htm)
  - **Klondike Gold Rush** (https://www.nps.gov/klgo/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtours.htm)
  - **Statue of Liberty** (https://www.nps.gov/stli/learn/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm)

- **P.E. with Joe daily workouts** (https://youtu.be/K6r99N3kXME) – Engage in fun, daily live and video-recorded workouts with a fitness trainer.

- **Science Toys** (https://scitoys.com/) – Make toys a home with common household materials to demonstrate fascinating scientific principles.

- **Smithsonian Kids** (https://www.si.edu/kids) – Find fun stuff for kids, including activities and games and animal cams of zoo animals.

- **Spy Museum** (https://www.spymuseum.org/education-programs/spy-resources/) – Learn about spy stuff (more for the instructor).

- **TIME for Kids** (https://www.timeforkids.com/) – Explore authentic news and practice critical thinking skills to become global citizens.