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9 tips for parents whose children are now learning at home because of Coronavirus

1. Limit distraction

A “digital quarantine” might be necessary to keep your child’s attention focused on their schoolwork. You should limit their use of their devices, other than what is needed to complete their work, until their schoolwork is done. If you choose, you can allow your child to play on a device during a designated break, but make them aware that they only have a limited amount of time until they need to get back to work.

2. Make space for learning

Many adults have a specific area of the home in which they do work, and it’s important that you create a similar space for your child. Your children will achieve their best work in a quiet, comfortable, and dedicated space that is strictly devoted to learning. This space should be a different set-up than where they normally play games or watch television.

3. Maintain breaks such as snack time and recess

Routines and schedules are extremely important for children at school, and this is no different in their at-home school. Children will function best if they maintain their routine as close to normal as possible. Setting alarms similar to those they would encounter at school can be helpful for keeping them on a schedule. Around lunch time, encourage them to get up, get some fresh air, go for a walk or bike ride, or have a snack so that they are not sedentary for the entire day.

4. Allow them to interact with friends via video chats

Your children are used to lots of social contact at school, so they will definitely feel the effects of being distanced from them even after a few days. While it might not be safe for your kids to see their friends in person, you should allow them to interact with them online, beyond social media or text messaging. Video chats are often the closest thing to seeing someone in person, and are a great way to get in social time without endangering yourself or others. If your child does not regularly video chat with their friends, you can speak with other parents to set up a video chat playdate.

5. Mix screen time with old school learning mediums

Overuse of screen time can have adverse impacts on young brains, so it's important to mix it up during a time like this. It's likely that your children will want to continue to use a screen of some sort during their breaks from doing work, so it's important to limit screen time by mixing in old school mediums as well. Hopefully teachers have sent home hard copy packets that they are able to work from. If not, print out anything you

can for your child. As much as possible, parents should encourage print and book reading and, if possible, request textbooks from your child's school.

6. Keep in touch with other parents

Social distancing is important during this time, but staying in touch with others via virtual communication is very important. Each parent that has a child at home is going to be going through a new experience. Check in with other parents to see what they've found effective, and ask if they need help as well. Make sure to always monitor your students online presence (Social Media, video chats, texting, etc.....)

7. Don't underestimate the power of a schedule

If you and your children are all doing work from your home, it's likely that this is the first time that has ever happened. A schedule, for your work and your child's work, is extremely important. To start, experts recommend keeping them on the same or similar **sleeping schedule** that they have when they are going into school. If a schedule was not provided by their teachers, help them write one for not only each day, but each week, as well. Having a clear vision of what is expected of your child will help them see that just because they are home does not mean they don't have work to do. Experts recommend helping them prioritize and learn to create goals, tasks, and deadlines, just like adults do when they go to work.

8. Don't let your children treat this as a vacation

This time at home might feel like a vacation for your child, but it's important to remind them that their education still comes first.

Obligations like class assignments, grades, tests, state exams, SATs, and ACTs aren't going away just because classes have moved online.

9. Remember to schedule time for fun

While this is most certainly not a vacation, it's important to have some fun with your children while they are at home. It's rare that you have this much time with your children, so use it as an opportunity to bond.

Experts at Children and Screens recommend organizing a tournament, family card games, charades, or chess, or getting outside for a hike or walk together.

**** Source:

<https://www.theladders.com/career-advice/tips-for-parents-online-learning-with-children>

Sample Schedule (This Is One Of Several Examples. Schedules Will Vary Across Households. More Examples To Be Shared Soon)

While every household will be different based on family schedules, below is a sample schedule that you might use with your student. Example Schedule - that can be modified. More Examples To Come!

8:00 Breakfast and check-in with your student(s). Have a conversation with them about how they are feeling. Talk to them about this new schedule and learning environment.

8:45 Have your student find a comfortable space with their learning materials (Chromebook, notebook, writing utensils, etc).

9:00-9:45 Your student should log into their online learning environment (Google classroom). Have them begin their work with one subject, such as English Language Arts. They may have questions while completing their assignments and are encouraged to speak with you about them and/or reach out to their classroom teacher.

9:45-10:30 Your student should move onto another subject such as Mathematics. Again, encourage them to talk things through with you and/or their classroom teacher.

10:30-10:45 Break. Grab a snack. Practice mindfulness.

10:45-11:00 Quiet reading time. Encourage them to read quietly for 15-20 minutes.

11:00-11:45 Your student should now focus on a third subject such as Science.

11:45-12:30 Lunch. If possible, get fresh air.

12:30-1:15 Your student should now focus on their fourth subject, such as Social Studies.

1:15-1:30 Stretch break. Practice mindfulness.

1:30-2:15 Your student should now focus on their fifth subject, such as Reading.

2:15-3:00 Complete any remaining coursework or assignments. Make sure assignments are completed and returned - following teachers' directions.