

At Home Enrichment/Extension Resources

By Ashley Fulp

Family Learning Experiences

The following ideas are from www.edutopia.org

- 1. Setting up a poetry coffeehouse: A [poetry coffeehouse](#) provides an intimate venue for students to read, write, and share poetry. When guiding kids to write poems, it's important to let them know that rhyming isn't necessary and that poems can be about anything. Good poem topics can come from the world around the child. To hold a poetry coffeehouse at home, every member of the family selects a poem—the Poetry Foundation is a [great place to look](#). (Families can instead do this with short stories if they prefer.) Each member practices reading their poem many times over. Parents can help by modeling for children so they hear the pacing, tone, and emotion of the poem. In preparation for the show, families can create a sign: “Welcome to the _____ Family Poetry Coffeehouse.” To help change the atmosphere, dim the lights and cue up a clip of an audience clapping. Finally, each family member will read their poem aloud—the readings can be streamed live for friends and extended family for a bigger audience.
- 2. Journaling: Journals, according to Julia Cameron, are companions. Journals are a place for dreams, fears, frustrations, and hopes—a place to reflect on and record regular life. Journals are a portable home for private thought and can be especially therapeutic in troubling times. With children at home every day, journaling can be a way for children to keep track of the days and how they're feeling. It often helps for parents to journal at the same time, at least at the beginning.
- 3. Composing a song: Joy, happiness, and well-being can be achieved through singing and making music. Creating a song should be a process-oriented, fun experience for all involved. Studies show that creating music and songs aids motivation and helps learners develop a love for language learning. Through song, kids can explore a variety of themes or topics. Songs don't need to be serious—sometimes the funny ones are the best.
- 4. Putting on a puppet show: Making puppets can be surprisingly appealing in our technologically complex culture. Puppetry invites children and audience members to exercise their imagination, and puppets don't need to be made from a complicated list of materials—using recycled paper and cardboard, children can create really inventive puppets. For some added fun, parents can prompt children to create characters, plots, and story lines, or to name all of the shapes they use in their puppet creation. And if they've made animal puppets, they can identify the animal's habitat and other details.

- 5. Composing alternate endings: When students are actively involved in the conception and construction of literacy experiences, they become more aware of the role they play in their own learning. Crafting alternate endings for stories offers opportunities for students to exercise their ability to see the everyday through a new lens. To start, one person reads a story aloud, stopping at the climax. Then each member of the family can record—in writing, or with audio or video recording—how they think the story should end. Next, everyone comes together to share their endings. For added fun, students can act out their endings for the family or hold “interviews” with characters from the story to uncover motives and backstory not shared in the original text.

Genius Hour @ Home

- [Genius Hour](#) - explore and pursue your passions, create a plan, pitch a project, complete your product, and make your presentation all from the comfort of your home.

Remote Learning Slides

- [Maker Monday](#) - choose a maker challenge from John Spencer’s YouTube Channel to complete. Reflect upon your work.
- [Techy Tuesday](#) - explore different apps to individualize your learning
- [Wonder Wednesday](#) - explore Wonderopolis
- [Thinking Thursday](#) - choose a TED Connection that you’d like to explore. Watch a video and complete at least 5 Think About it Questions. If you are able, explore further and attempt the Do It Challenge as well.
- [Free Friday](#) - Learning happens everywhere! How would you like to learn today. Today is your chance to learn something new outside or from YouTube, or perhaps a conversation with someone. Reflect on what you’ve learned.

STEM Activities

- Turn any location into a classroom using [National Inventors Hall of Fame](#) at home STEM challenges!
- [STEAM T.V.](#) - daily STEAM activities that require little to no prep or materials (available in English and Spanish)
- [Texas Wildlife Association](#) offers Youth On-Demand Webinars for free (12 different programs)

Virtual Field Trips

- [Calendar of Virtual Field Trips for Families](#)