

Introduction

This article is aimed at children and parents who suddenly find themselves in self-isolation, at home due to school closures, digitally educating yourselves and your children. Feel free to share, I am updating this daily.

[Skip](#) to links to further documents at the bottom of this if you have been here before.

About me

My approach as a teacher was to prioritise helping people to learn that learning is fun; I taught ICT and media studies at KS3 and KS4 and web development, maths and computer programming to level 1 & 2 at university. You can reach me on edtechs.info@gmail.com. Everything below is based on the idea that if learning is enjoyable then we learn more, faster and better.

Advice

My first piece of advice is don't try to replicate the classroom, but creating a quiet space as well as a shared space for learning, together with your child, would be a great start. Relax, take a deep breath, no one is going to test you at the end of all this. Kids are naturally resilient and have short memories: "wire our kids for resilience, not panic" by staying calm and trying to have some fun yourself!

New: The following site has been set up to support education efforts during this time and they, too, are curating heavily alongside some excellent advice.

<https://homelearninguk.weebly.com/>

General Ideas for all ages

What follows are ideas from the top of my head, my apologies if they are a little rough.

- Split up learning activities because we can often only remain focussed for a limited time, 7-20 minutes, especially on things that are difficult. Two hours of positive learning time a day is way better than six hours of misery .
- Let's try to make learning at home fun for children and practical for you:
 - They should do the work (encourage creating things - video, presentations, a play, a set of exercises, scrapbooks, mood boards, an essay, pros and cons lists, quizzes) and you can let them lead you.
 - Use the things they love to help them to learn other things, so reptiles, for example, are a great basis to learn about biology, geography, history. What do they love? Computer games, fashion or football, anything really can all be a source of learning resources by setting up a question and seeking to answer it as fully as possible using [critical thinking](#).
 - Negotiate a timetable and keep to it everyday - a routine only takes two/three days to embed. (But allow flexibility.)
 - Create a journal/portfolio if they don't already have one (a folder, a pile of paper, a notebook, something online), children can record each chunk of learning- their lives at this moment in history, adding to a record of their

learning over their weeks in isolation or at home.

- Older children will know what they need to do, they just might not want to do it. So a productive 20 minutes in a day on something they don't want to do, can still pay dividends.
- They can prepare a short lesson to teach you something - an excellent strategy for maths especially, but can be used with anything
- Help your child with writing by creating a writing frame for them to use (templates to come)

Teachers use rewards of all types - from stickers to sweets -- but you know that heartfelt praise is often the best reward of all!

Links

I try to avoid links that will incur cost to you. At this time, thankfully, many publishers are opening up their subscriptions or making them entirely free. I will try to clearly indicate those that will require cancelling in the future.

Safety Online - Childline has [links](#) for activities for different age groups. Excellent resources are also available from

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

Early Years to KS2 (Up to age 10)

Fun things to do at home

The Great TP Tower Challenge

A quick guide to using technologies with children

Equipment

Fun science, engineering & maths projects for home

The rainbow project

Using [Google Drive and Applications](#) to do things together with people somewhere else

[KS3 resources and suggestions](#) (Years 7-9 - Ages 11-13)