

CIRCULAR

Date: April 6, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-50

To: All programs

Subject: Resources to Keep Children Active and Engaged at Home

Program(s): All

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

Topic: Suggested activities for children at home

The department has compiled a list of online activities and educational resources to help parents and caregivers keep children active and engaged at home (see appendix).

Stay tuned for a new resource coming soon from the Department of Education that will guide parents and caregivers in how to support learning from home while in-school classes are suspended.

Important: caregivers must supervise children and talk to their kids about how to safely use social media and the internet. Parents and children can access online resources to ensure their safety. Understanding the risks is the best way to protect our children. Visit The Canadian Centre for Child Protection for more information:

<https://www.protectchildren.ca/en/resources-research/online-safety/>

Please share this information with parents and caregivers.

For the latest provincial public health information on COVID-19, including helpful information for citizens, service providers and employers, please regularly visit the Manitoba government's website at: www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Sarah Thiele | Assistant Deputy Minister
Child and Youth Services

Catherine Gates | Assistant Deputy Minister
Community Service Delivery

List of Resources for Parents and Caregivers

Government Resources:

Manitoba ParentZone is a comprehensive website that provides parents with resources and information that reflects best practices in health and child and adolescent development. Parents can access helpful tip sheets, ask question using the “Ask an Expert” feature and learn more about parenting programs and resources available to them. Visit: www.manitobaparentzone.ca

Online Resources for Manitoba Educators offers a wide variety of free learning resources for parents including videos, audiobooks, books, as well as an alternate formats collection for children with disabilities: <https://mbcsc.edu.gov.mb.ca/cgi-bin/koha/pages.pl?p=fore>

For educators and parents who are seeking **learning materials in French**, please contact the Direction des ressources éducatives françaises (DREF) at: dref@gov.mb.ca or call 204-945-8594 or toll-free 1-800-667-2950. Visit: <https://dref.mb.ca/>

Webinar for Kids Who have Questions about COVID-19, a special event hosted by Ace Burpee (103.1 radio host), where children asked questions and received answers from Manitoba health care practitioners.

Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj2HyrGvsJQ>

Activities for Young Children (Preschool to Age 6):

BrainPOPjr is a website for young learners to complete activities, games, and ask questions and explore their world. Subjects cover STEM, social studies, reading/writing, health, and arts. Visit: <https://jr.brainpop.com>

Cbeebies (part of the British Broadcast Corporation) is an online site that provides young children with shoes, games, match and sing, and other learning activities <https://global.cbeebies.com/>

Oxford Owl for Home (part of Oxford University Press) is an online site with free educational activities and games, advice and support for parents, and a free book library for 3 – to 11 year olds. Visit <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>.

PBS Kids, a website where young children can play with their favourite show characters and learn too. Visit: <https://pbskids.org/>

San Diego Zoo has a website for children with videos, activities and games. Visit: <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>

Seussville is a website where children can read, play games, and hang out with Dr. Seuss. Visit: <https://www.seussville.com/>

Activities for School-Age Children and Youth:

Blockly Games is a series of educational games that teach programming. It is a Code with Google program designed for children who have not had prior experience with computer programming. Visit: <https://blockly.games/>

ClickSchooling brings you daily recommendations by email for entertaining websites that help your kids learn. This site is regularly used by homeschooling families. Visit: <https://clickschooling.com/>

Scratch is an online tool for children to create, learn to think creatively, work collaboratively, program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animation with people from all over the world. It is designed and maintained by the Lifelong Kindergarten group and the MIT Media Lab. Visit: <https://scratch.mit.edu/about> (aged 8 to 16 years) or <https://www.scratchjr.org/> (ages 5 to 7 years)

Learning for Children of All Ages:

Crest Awards [British Science Association] is a website dedicated to student-led project work in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths). Children aged 5 to 19 years earn awards for completing challenges. Visit: <https://www.crestawards.org/>

FarmFood 360, a Canadian website that offers 11 Virtual Tours of farms from minks, pigs, and cows, to apples and eggs. Visit: <https://www.farmfood360.ca/>

Highlights Kids is a free online tool through YouTube with games, activities, jokes, podcasts and more <https://www.highlightskids.com/activities>.

National Film Board of Canada, an amazing library of films and documentaries to discover. Visit: www.nfb.ca

National Geographic provides a wide range of videos and games for children to learn about geography and animals <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Scholastic offers learning journeys for grade levels ranging from pre-kindergarten to Grade 9. These activities explore a wide range of subjects, and culminate in reading quests that can be done alone, or with a parent.

Visit: <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

TED ED has created high-quality interactive video-based lessons and presentations for children <https://ed.ted.com/>

The Canadian Space Agency has inspiring resources and activities to stimulate students' interest in the sciences, mathematics and technology. <https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/resources-young/default.asp>