



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# 75 Suggested Activities and Resources for Learning at Home with Children

Offline & online ideas during **COVID-19**

## Family Time Together

### Five Ways to Learn to be Grateful for One Another



- 1. Plan surprise acts of kindness together:** Encourage your child to plan one, secrete positive surprise act of kindness for another person in the family throughout the week.
- 2. Connect and learn from relatives together:** Invite your child to interview older relatives or neighbors (maybe be phone) to describe what they remember about growing up when they were the same age as your child.
- 3. Make and send 'I Appreciate You' notes together:** Encourage children to write a hand-drawn picture or note to family relatives, neighbors, or others that do not live with you. Send the note via WhatsApp or text to lift spirits.

## Family Time Together

### Learn to be Grateful for One Another



- 4. Cook meals together:** Invite children to help prepare a meal over the course of the day is one of the best times to spend together; especially learning new recipes, how to take responsibility, and collaborate with others.
- 5. Explore family members' personal goals and dreams together:** What is one personal goal that your child hopes to complete this next year? In what ways could others in your family help your child's efforts? Offer the same question for caretakers.

## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



6. **Create 'obstacle courses' and 'homemade forts' for kids (and adults).** Click [here](#) and [here](#) for inspiration.
7. **Host family 'treasure' hunts throughout the house:** Create written or spoken clues for your children to search for items in the house leading to a pretend 'treasure'. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for some ideas about clues.
8. **Play 'I Spy' Games Looking Out the Window or While On Daily Walks:** Play 'I Spy' with kids when looking around your home or outside about things related to things learned from school. Click [here](#) for instructions.

## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



9. **Create a Family Word Jar for New Vocabulary:** When you read stories together, write down new vocabulary words on pieces of paper and place them in a Family Word Jar; pull them out later to practice.
10. **Direct Homemade Puppet Shows:** Use old socks or other items around the house to create puppet theatres. Encourage children to make new sets, costumes, and even sequels. Click [here](#) for some ideas.
11. **Encourage Children to be Journalists:** Interview grandparents, parents and friends (over the phone if not in the same place) about their day or their experience with COVID-19 and present to other family members.

## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



- 12. Make Stories Together:** Make a story with, 'Today we're going on a picnic, and we're going to bring \_\_\_\_'. Families can use words with the entire alphabet (i.e. I'm going to bring an Apple, Banana). Click [here](#) for details.
- 13. Sing Together and Learn New Songs:** Explore and share new songs together as a family.
- 14. Engage in 'side-by-side play' together:** Play tick-tack-toe, play hangman, or even start a 'multiple artist drawing' where each family member has 2 minutes each to draw a 10-minute picture.

## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



- 15. Play 'Stop and Go Games' together:** Iterate the "Red Light, Green Light" game where instructions are given to children to 'freeze' and then followed by instructions to move in fun ways. Click [here](#) for some ideas.
- 16. Play 'Simon Says' together:** Host a family-style 'Simon Says' games, rotating family members calling out different directions for children to follow different, fun directions. Replace 'Simon' with different names. Click [here](#) for 101 ideas of what type of instructions you could say.

## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



- 17. Play new hand-clapping games together:** After washing your hands, encourage children to learn new handclapping games or make one up and teach other members of the family. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for some ideas.
- 18. Build new creations with materials at home:** Using blocks or materials you would recycle (i.e. boxes, milk containers), invite children to create new cities, towns, musical instruments. Then children can create stories with what they build and write some of these in a personal journal. Click [here](#) for an example of making a story from recycled materials. Click [here](#) for five ideas from LEGO. If you have LEGO, click [here](#) for more fun ideas.



## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



- 19. Play 'pretend store/restaurant' :** Pretend your home is a store and add price tags to various items. Turn your regular dinner time into a restaurant and encourage children to be the waiters/waitresses (and vice versa). Encourage children to make fun menus, design decorations, and even create new innovative recipes together.
- 20. Play card games that are kid-friendly:** With a standard 52 card deck, learn to play new card games with kids. Children can also build card-houses and use cards for math or memory games. Click [here](#) for 10 games.

## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



- 21. Design and fly paper airplanes:** Learn to design, build, test flying paper planes together. See which plane goes the furthest or fastest! Spend time decorating in fun ways, too! Click [here](#) for 45 paper airplane designs.
- 22. Create fun paper hats and play dress up:** Creatively cut out the middle of paper plates to create fun hats. Click [here](#) for directions. Invite kids to play dress up with clothes from adults for fun and put on fun fashion shows.
- 23. Make your own dice and play new games:** Click [here](#) or [here](#) to learn how to make dice with paper. Then click [here](#) for some ideas of games with dice. Otherwise, make up your own new games with available dice.

## Fun Ways to Learn in the House

### Activities with Family Members and Household Items



#### **24. Move, dance and exercise together!**

20 minutes a day of exercise makes huge difference.  
Click [here](#) for ideas.

#### **25. Co-create a daily family routines:**

Click [here](#) for some weekly sample routines  
for children of all ages.

## Learning Across Multiple Subjects



1. **Khan Academy:** An online resource for independent learning for all kids. Click [here](#).
2. **Scholastic Learning:** Project-based, week-long learning units for grades K-9. Click [here](#).
3. **Wonderopolis:** Daily lessons of fun, 'child wonder topics' to explore. Click [here](#).
4. **PBS Learning Media:** Curated daily, subject-specific, age appropriate materials. Click [here](#).
5. **YouTube 'Learn at Home':** Curated channels for interactive learning videos. Click [here](#).

## Learning Across Multiple Subjects



6. **YouTube 'PLAY' Series:** 3-minute videos of games to play at home with kids. Click [here](#).
7. **Kahoot!:** Create a game show at home with custom or pre-made trivia questions. Click [here](#).
8. **Zero to Three:** Home-based play activities for children aged 12 to 24 months. Click [here](#).
9. **Vroom:** Science-based app providing practical tips for caregivers of children. Click [here](#).

## Learning through Reading



10. **Epic:** 40,000 books for children under 12 years old. Limited time for free access. Click [here](#).
11. **Audible Stories:** Access to 1000s of 'read-aloud' stories from Amazon for all. Click [here](#).
12. **Global Digital Library:** Access to free digital books in 48 languages. Click [here](#).
13. **Antura and Letters:** Global app to learn to read; available in 25 languages. Click [here](#).
14. **YouTube 'KidTimeStoryTime':** Curated 'read aloud' children's books in all topics. Click [here](#).

## Learning through Reading



- 15. Story Time from Space:** Listen to astronauts reading books from space. Click [here](#).
- 16. World Reader:** Storybooks for your mobile device (start with 75 free ones). Click [here](#).
- 17. Story Weaver:** Storybooks for children in different languages. Click [here](#).
- 18. African Story Book:** Access storybooks in African languages, 700+ in Kiswahili. Click [here](#).

## Learning Mathematics



19. **BedTime Math:** Daily, funny, 5-min math word problems for kids of all ages. Click [here](#).
20. **Erikson Early Math:** Math-based learning games for kids in early years. Click [here](#).
21. **Omnicalculator:** 1032 custom calculators to use math in the real world. Click [here](#).
22. **Photomath:** An app to take photos of math problems and receive assistance. Click [here](#).
23. **TeachBanzai:** Facilitates students to learn financial literacy for all aged children. Click [here](#).



## Learning about Science and Technology



- 24. Nasa Kids Club:** A range of STEM resources related to science and space for kids. Click [here](#).
- 25. MosaMackScience:** Kids' science/engineering challenges for kids aged 9 to 13. Click [here](#).
- 26. Coding:** Explore how to code at either Code.org (click [here](#)) or Code Academy (click [here](#)).
- 27. TypingClub:** Encourage children and young people to learn and master typing. Click [here](#).

## Learning through Exercise, Play and Exploration



28. **GoNoodle:** A suite of online, fun exercise videos for kids, developed by experts. Click [here](#).
29. **Playworks:** A helpful list of children's physical activities for use within indoors. Click [here](#).
30. **YoReMi:** A site with yoga activities for kids, now free during the COVID-19 crisis. Click [here](#).
31. **ChessKid:** Learn how to play chess and play with kids around the world. Click [here](#).
32. **FiveMinuteMum:** Curated list of 5-minute activities kids can do at home for fun. Click [here](#).
33. **Virtual Museums:** Explore 12 virtual museums that match children's interests. Click [here](#).

## Learning a New Language



**34. Duolingo:** Learn a foreign language through an interactive, downloadable app. Click [here](#).

**35. CommonSenseMedia:** Curated list of 33 sites/apps to learn a foreign language. Click [here](#).



1. **COVIBOOK:** Downloadable children's book about COVID-19 in many languages. Click [here](#).
2. **The Red Cross:** A list of advice and resources for speaking to children about COVID-19. Click [here](#).
3. **World Health Organization:** Curated site of videos about aspects of COVID-19. Click [here](#).
4. **WhatsApp Facts:** Interactive app with facts about COVID-19 from the WHO. Click [here](#).
5. **YouTube Baby Shark Song for Handwashing:** Kids' video for hand washing. Click [here](#).

*For updated information, it is important to reference the WHO as a trusted source as the situation evolves.*



1. **UNESCO:** Repository offline/online learning websites during school closures. Click [here](#).
2. **INEE:** Repository of offline/online resources for education in emergencies. Click [here](#).
3. **UNICEF:** Responses to COVID-19 for children (click [here](#)) and children's online safety guides (click [here](#)).
4. **World Bank:** Repository of resources for supporting children learning at home. Click [here](#).
5. **Save the Children:** Repository of COVID-19 learning at home resources for families. Click [here](#).



6. **Forbes Magazine:** 101 ideas for supporting children's learning at home. Click [here](#).
7. **We Are Teachers:** 1000+ learning at home resources listed by grade/subject. Click [here](#).
8. **Amazing Educators:** 1000+ crowdsourced ideas for learning during COVID-19. Click [here](#).
9. **Oxford University:** List of recommended home learning resources from the UK. Click [here](#).
10. **ECD Action Network:** List of resources for promoting early childhood development. Click [here](#).



# Thank you

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