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Trying to homeschool your kids due to coronavirus? Here are some tips for parents

The coronavirus pandemic has put a strain on many parents trying to teach their kids while school is out.

Schools across the country are canceled or closed, some indefinitely, as COVID-19 continues to spread. This has left many parents stressed or confused about what to do with them and how to keep them learning while they're stuck at home.

So how should parents go about homeschooling their kids? Here are some resources and tips.

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF

For many parents, teaching their kids at home is something they've never had to do before.

So it's important to remember that your homeschooling techniques, whatever they are, don't have to be perfect or like regular school.

“Your ‘school day’ will not be perfect, and that’s OK. Just try to remember that you’re both adjusting to something new and there will be some bumps along the way.”

“We just need to try to do our best, whether we’re teachers, parents or working professionals. “There’s no map for this journey that we’re on.”

HAVE FUN

Homeschooling during the coronavirus pandemic doesn't have to be taken so seriously.

Find some “outside-the-box” ways to help your kids learn.

Grocery shopping can be lessons on everything from color, shape and sizes for the young ones to multiplication and percentages for your older ones. Taking a long walk can be a lesson in botany or biology. Those experiences that you seek out become field trips that will be a blast and something special because you are schooling your children.

You can also have kids do crafts or art projects with items you have around the house.

BREAKS AND DOWNTIME

Regular school has breaks and “moments of downtime”. Kids should also still be getting some outside time, like they would during recess. So, remember to give them the same while they’re at home, get outside and go for a walk.

When a child is struggling through a math assignment, a quick 15-minute break can do wonders for both your patience and their ability to get through the material.

MAKE A SCHEDULE

It’s helpful to have a daily schedule that includes learning time, chores, meals and other activities. Students are used to having a schedule at school, so having one at home can make the situation easier on everyone.

It’s important to make sure your family’s schedule isn’t too ambitious.

Your kids are used to being at school for about eight hours a day, “But they aren’t doing eight hours of schoolwork while they’re there.”

RESOURCES

There are many resources to help keep kids learning while out of school.

Scholastic created a free “digital hub” [for kids stuck at home](#) during the coronavirus pandemic. It includes access to “daily learning journeys” for students at four different grade levels.

Some internet companies are also [offering free services](#) for families with students.

Several [authors of children’s books](#) are hosting “read alouds” and other activities on social media, We Are Teachers reports.