PSA: These Educational Apps, Websites, and Activities Are Free to Parents Right Now - Marisa LaScala, Good Housekeeping 3/23/2020

http://a.msn.com/0E/en-us/BB11kuuA?ocid=scu2

Scholastic

With the new Scholastic Learn at Home, every day Scholastic's website will offer a new mini-lesson that includes a story, a video, and an activity. The lessons are grouped into four age groups: pre-k and kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2, Grades 3 to 5, and Grades 6+.

[LEARN MORE](https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome/grades-1-2.html)

## PBS Kids Daily Newsletter

While there's always child-friendly content at [PBS Kids](https://pbskids.org/), the organization is going the extra mile during school closures: It's creating a newsletter that'll give you ideas for learning activities at home. A new newsletter arrives every weekday.

[LEARN MORE](http://public.pbs.org/PBSKIDSDaily)

## Khan Academy

During school closures, the education website offers free [daily schedules](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/parenting/g31669687/daily-schedule-for-kids-visual-routines/) for students from the ages of 4 to 18. It'll also be hosting livestreams on their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/khanacademy), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/khanacademy) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/khanacademy) about navigating school closures.

[LEARN MORE](https://www.khanacademy.org/about/blog/post/611770255064350720/remote-learning-with-khan-academy-during-school)

## Circletime

At Circletime, educators host free, interactive videos in whatever their area of expertise might be. You can find video lessons in everything from yoga to family cooking to sing-along songs.

[LEARN MORE](https://circletimefun.com/)

## Club SciKidz

Every day on their blog, Club SciKidz will post a different simple science experiment for kids and parents to do at home. The first, for example, uses the scientific method to determine what household ingredient works the best to clean a dirty penny.

[LEARN MORE](http://www.clubscikidzmd.com/blog/)

## Duolingo

The always-free app (which does offer extra paid features) teaches foreign languages using bite-size lessons. Users earn points for correct answers an "level up," offering extra motivation to keep at it.

[LEARN MORE](https://www.duolingo.com/)

## Math Games

You can sort through these always-free math games by grade level, or by skill you're looking to work on. There are also free worksheets you can print out.

[LEARN MORE](https://www.mathgames.com/)

## Bamboo

Bamboo works with Amazon's Alexa to do free, voice-based activities around math, music, social studies, and stories. If you register on Bamboo Grove, it can track your child's progress and give rewards.

[LEARN MORE](https://bamboolearning.com/bamboo-blog-001)

## HippoCampus

For older ones, this site offers 7,000 free videos for middle schoolers through college students. You can check out the playlists in one of 13 subject areas, or you can browse by collection, like the NASA collection of science videos.

[LEARN MORE](https://hippocampus.org/HippoCampus/)

## Mystery Science

Mystery Science combed through its past lessons and pulled the ones that were easiest to reproduce at home. Activities range from five-minute mini-lessons (including one called "How Does Hand Sanitizer Kill Germs," which seems appropriate right now), to full, 45- to 90-minute classes with hands-on experiments.

[LEARN MORE](https://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning)

## Beanstalk

Beanstalk, which offers interactive online classes for preschool kids, is offering free memberships throughout the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak. Recently taught classes include "How Rainbows Work" and "All About Our Lips."

[LEARN MORE](https://beanstalk.co/)

## ScratchJr

With this always-free app, kids can fool around with coding and eventually program their own interactive stories and games. The app is geared for kids ages 5 to 7, and then they can graduate to the regular [Scratch](https://scratch.mit.edu/parents/).

[LEARN MORE](https://www.scratchjr.org/)

## Outschool

Outschool offers live, online classes for ages 3 to 13, and, for a limited time due to a big donation, it's signing up families affected by school closures into $300,000 worth of online classes (limit $200 per family). And if you're not one of the lucky ones, the lessons are still very affordable — some are as low as $5 per class.

[LEARN MORE](https://blog.outschool.com/free-online-classes-for-public-school-students-affected-by-closures/)

## Rosetta Stone

During school closures, Rosetta Stone will be giving three months of free language learning to all elementary, middle, and high school students. The program teaches language through immersion, with instant feedback and with progress reports.

[LEARN MORE](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=74968X1553576&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rosettastone.com%2Ffreeforstudents%2F&sref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.goodhousekeeping.com%2Flife%2Fparenting%2Fg31677468%2Feducation-companies-offering-subscriptions%2F)

## TED-Ed

Bring the inquisitive curiosity of TED Talks down to school-age level with TED-Ed. There are [free resources for students](https://ed.ted.com/lessons?content_type=animations+talks&direction=desc&sort=publish-date&user_by_click=student), and it also offers parents ;a daily TED-Ed activity that can be a hands-on, interactive lesson they can do with their children.

[LEARN MORE](https://ed.ted.com/parent)

## Audible

Audible has a free hub, Audible Stories, where kids can listen to great works of literature. Selections run the age gamut, from Beatrix Potter and Winnie the Pooh all the way up to Moby Dick and C.S. Lewis.

[LEARN MORE](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/stories.audible.com/start-listen__;!!Ivohdkk!3XfkinNF6MdkMIBTjOSXQgBORW0zbC2tg9SbM0T0iGWnhaqVZdDJW5KQ1lxN-OfyqA$)

## Rebel Girls

The folks behind Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls have put together some at-home resources for families. Activities include how to write a business plan, how to write a computer program, how to plant a garden, and more.

[LEARN MORE](https://www.rebelgirls.com/collections/rebel-girls-at-home)

## RV App Studios

The learning apps from RV App Studios, which was started by a parent as a passion project, are always free, and are downloaded by parents 3 million times per month. One app, [ABC Kids Tracing and Phonics](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rvappstudios.abc_kids_toddler_tracing_phonics&hl=en_US), won a "Best Games of 2016" distinction from Google Play.

[LEARN MORE](https://play.google.com/store/apps/dev?id=7430005971129979939&hl=en_US)

## GoNoodle

When it's time for them to get up and move around, this always-free app has videos that kids can follow along with for a little dance break. They're also coming up with [daily activities for parents to use at home](https://www.gonoodle.com/good-energy-at-home-kids-games-and-videos/).

[LEARN MORE](https://www.gonoodle.com/for-families/)

## Cosmic Kids Yoga

Similarly, the Cosmic Kids yoga videos are good for a few minutes peace and quiet [so you can work](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/parenting/a31668169/coronavirus-homeschool-work-from-home-tips/) — we mean, a nice stretch and mindfulness break in the middle of all the academic learning. [The app](https://app.cosmickids.com/) requires a subscription, but you can watch the videos on YouTube.

[LEARN MORE](https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga)

## More Fun Educational Activities

* Mo Willems, author of Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, will offer a "[lunchtime doodle](https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/)" lesson at 1 p.m. each weekday where he teaches kids to draw something new.
* Kidlit authors are coming together to read their own books for a digital read-aloud. Follow [#operationstorytime](https://twitter.com/i/events/1239585327255191558) for schedules and details. Penguin Random House also is offering [virtual storytimes with celebrity readers](https://www.readtogetherbetogether.com/).
* Many [zoos, museums, and theme parks are offering virtual tours](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/) and livestreams.
* America's Test Kitchen Kids is making all of its [recipes, activities, and experiments](https://www.americastestkitchen.com/kids/home) free.
* The Metropolitan Opera will [stream its operas for free](https://www.metopera.org/). A new one will premiere each night, and will be available for 20 hours. There are also many [Broadway shows streaming for free](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/entertainment/a31808711/broadway-online-how-to-watch-stream/) in HD.