



Resource Guide for Educating and Entertaining Children When School is Closed

With the rapidly evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, schools are closed, classes have been cancelled, and programs postponed, but we do not have to cancel learning! Turn the time that you are “stuck” at home into fun and learning for you and your little ones.

This guide contains a few ideas for messy fun, outdoor fun, Jewish fun, and much more. Explore ways to turn unscheduled family time into great opportunities for kids *and* parents!

In addition to the fun and games, remember to find some time to talk with your children about the current situation. They know that something out of the norm is happening and they most likely know a little bit (or a lot!) about the coronavirus. Read this [article](#) by Fred Rogers for some insights on talking with children about tragic events.

For some useful information on talking to your children about coronavirus, follow this [link](#).

Read a Book

- Read aloud with your child. Talk about what you are reading—before, during, and after a read-aloud session.
- Act out a book together!
- Draw the story!
- Check out [PJ Library®](#) for fun ideas to explore books, Jewish values, holidays, and so much more!

Make a Mess: Have fun while exploring science, developing fine motor skills, and engaging the senses

- Slime
- Kinetic Sand
- Play Dough
- Gak
- Silly Putty

*see attached for the recipes

Play a Game: Great for helping with math skill development and critical thinking:

- “I spy with my little eye...” in the living room, in the kitchen, outside, on-line... The possibilities are endless!
- “Simon Says”
- Hide and Seek
- Board games and card games



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Movement Activities: Helps with gross motor development and to get the wiggles out!

- Make a balance beam out of painter's tape and walk it.
- Have a dance party!
- Build an obstacle course.
- Have a jumping contest.

Go Outside

- Make a bird feeder by covering a bagel with peanut butter/sunflower butter/Crisco, coat with bird seed or cereal, and hang it from a tree by looping yarn through the center. Learn to identify the local birds that visit and the calls they make.
- Go for a family walk and take photos of local trees.
- Raining? Try going out and singing (and dancing!) in the rain.
- Plant a garden. Even one small container can add color to your environment or vegetables to your salad. Run around. Throw or kick a ball. Play tag.
- Wash the car!

Transportation Activities

- Tape a road or a maze on your floor for your child to drive on with their favorite vehicles.
- Build a city of blocks and drive through it.
- Paint with vehicles -- add some trucks, tractors, cars, whatever vehicles you have to some paint and paper and compare the tracks that they make.
- Make a ramp from cardboard boxes and paper towel rolls.
- Have a car wash!

Doing Good

Federation's Doing Good teamed up with PJ Library® to create [Doing Good Guides](#) that provide a way for adults to discuss Jewish values with kids, engage in hands-on activities and reflect on the experience as a family. Each guide focuses on a specific Jewish value to help your child understand the purpose and impact of this value in Jewish life.

For more ideas check out Manager, PJ Library Sarah Rabin Spira's Pinterest page on snow day [activities](#).



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Here are a few websites to keep the Jewish learning going for the whole family:

Israel Education <https://www.theicenter.org/>

4 Israeli start-ups with great free educational products that every family can enjoy:

- <https://wizer.me/> for interactive worksheets
- <https://www.codemonkey.com/> for a cool way for kids to learn programming
- <https://www.tinytap.it/> for Hebrew games and tutoring
- <https://www.joytunes.com/> to learn to play the piano

Children's Learning Network <http://www.akhlah.com>

TorahTots <http://www.torahtots.com>

Holidays.net <http://www.holidays.net/passover/index.htm>

Areyvut "A Kindness a Day" info@areyvut.com

Behrman House (family and educator activities) <http://www.behrmanhouse.com/PlayLearn>

Jewish Bedtime Stories <https://www.jewishbedtimestories.com/>,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_8FRS92ETI

Judaism 101 <http://www.jewfaq.org>

All About Judaism <http://www.Judaism.About.com>

My Jewish Learning <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/>