

Resources (formerly resources for parents impacted by school closings).

Updated APRIL 24, 2020

As you know, the libraries closed on March 18, and we have been very busy exploring ways we can continue to serve the community while limiting access to our physical buildings. We have continued to collect resources for you and will continue to update this page as often as possible.

New additions will be in red at the top of the list. Please be sure to read the description to know if a resource is right for your child and remember to always check a new website to determine if it is appropriate.

The following resources are available to help:

Art

Adult Coloring Books*: Book Riot recently ran an article with links to several artists who have made coloring pages available for free. Click [here](#) to read the article. ***May not be appropriate for children***

Artsy.net: This site posted an article on [Ten University Art Classes You Can Take for Free](#). These are university level classes suitable for older teens or adults.

Art At Home: @MrsVelazquezArt is an art teacher who has posted an online document with links to art contests, games, education, and art at home, among others. Access the document with links [here](#).

Dave Pilkey: Renown author of *Captain Underpants*, *Dog Man*, and more, Dave Pilkey is working with the Library of Congress to offer weekly readings, drawing demonstrations, and tips for creating your own characters. New videos are released Fridays at 8:00 a.m. [here](#).

Deschutes Public Library: Staff have put together a web page of YouTube and Facebook Live events being offered by children's authors. Visit the page at DPL Children's Authors - [Read Alouds and other FaceTime Live Events](#).

Jarrett J. Krosoczka: This author of the popular *Lunch Lady* series (among others) is offering a free drawing video for kids every day at 2:00 p.m. called Draw Every Day with JJK. Access the videos [here](#).

MAKE Paducah: This private business offers a DIY painting studio, meeting space, and a gift boutique in Paducah, Kentucky. Due to school closures, they are offering Facebook Live art lessons for free. Check out their [Facebook Page](#) for more details.

Mental Floss: This website calls itself ..."an encyclopedia of everything" and promises to offer "...smart, funny and shareable content in an upbeat and witty environment." They recently published an article [12 World-Class Museums You Can Visit Online](#)

Mo Willems: This beloved author of the Pidgeon books (among others) is currently the Kennedy Center Education Artist-in-Residence, and he is offering a daily Lunch Doodle, Monday through Friday at 1:00 p.m. Don't forget to bring some paper and crayons! Access the Lunch Doodle page [here](#).

MOMA: The Museum of Modern Art offers free online art classes. Read about it [here](#), and access the full course catalog [here](#).

Blogs and Online Magazines

Amazing Educational Resources: This is a Facebook group started by Nick Hooper from the University of Texas at Austin. The description given for the group is to be an “...educator community to share the good, bad, and ugly about the many teacher resources on the internet.” This group originally shared a Google Doc of educational companies offering free services during the school shutdown. With over 300 resources already listed, this group moved the document to the web. Visit www.amazingeducationalresources.com to view the document.

Emmy Kaster: This children’s book author and illustrator is using her Instagram account to highlight resources available to keep children engaged in literature. Visit her [kidlitresources](#) to see what’s available.

Kate Messner: As a former classroom teacher and celebrated author, Kate Messner has put together a library of resources for kids, families, teachers and librarians. Access the website at <https://www.katemessner.com/read-wonder-and-learn-favorite-authors-illustrators-share-resources-for-learning-anywhere-spring-2020/>

Kottke.org: Founded in 1998, this blog is produced by Jason Kottke and dedicated to covering “...the essential people, inventions, performances, and ideas...” that increase human potential. A recent article, [Paris Museums Put 100,000 Images Online for Unrestricted Public Use](#) gives links to [Paris Musées](#), a collection of 14 museums in Paris that have made copies of their artwork available online for free.

Preschool Inspirations: This blog contains links to several kid-friendly YouTube videos. Access the article [here](#). Please preview any video before sharing it with your child!

School Library Journal: SLJ published an article on March 11, 2020 entitled *A Mini-Clearinghouse on Coronavirus, Created by Two School Librarians*. The article is geared more towards library staff, but the resources will work for all. See the article [here](#).

Stuck Inside: A recently founded Facebook Group for sharing free educational resources. You must have a Facebook account to participate. See their Facebook Page [here](#)

Ranger Rick: This well-respected children’s magazine, a publication of the National Wildlife Federation, is offering free digital subscriptions to the magazine through June. Click [here](#) for more information.

Scholastic: Scholastic has launched a new website, <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>, offering 20 days of articles, stories, videos and learning challenges to help keep children engaged. Activities are offered by grade level and will be updated regularly.

The Shirley Journey: This blog recently posted a “30 Days of LEGO© Play” calendar. The article also gives good tips on cleaning LEGO©. Read the article [here](#) or go directly to the [printable calendar](#).

E-Books and Literacy Resources

Audible.com: One of the best known sources for audiobooks, Audible is offering free streaming of children's titles on desktop, laptop, phone, or tablet. Visit <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>.

Deschutes Public Library: Staff have put together a web page of YouTube and Facebook Live events being offered by children's authors. Visit the page at DPL Children's Authors - [Read Alouds and other FaceTime Live Events](#).

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: This popular program which offers free books to children is also offering a weekly bedtime story read by Dolly. Visit the website [here](#) to learn more.

EBook Friendly: This site posted an article in 2016 listing 25 sites for free public domain eBooks. Items in the public domain include older titles, many of which are considered classics. Read the article [here](#).

Everywhere Book Fest: This two day virtual book festival is scheduled for May 1-2, 2020. This event is free, and will feature authors of picture books, middle grade and young adult novels. Check out their website [here](#) for a complete schedule.

Growing Book by Book: This website was founded by a teacher with over 20 years of experience in early childhood educational settings. The site is dedicated to meeting the needs of every growing reader, and they offer resources for infants to beginning readers [here](#).

Harry Potter at Home Digital Hub: JK Rowling has created this website with craft videos, articles, quizzes and puzzles to entertain every Potter fan in your house! Access the website [here](#).

Marvel Comics: Marvel is making 12 of their comics free to read online through May 4th. Read the article in Entertainment Weekly that will tell you which titles are free and what to do to access them [here](#).

New York Public Library eBooks: The NYPL has made a catalog of over 300,000 eBooks available to anyone with or without a library card. You must have a device to which you can download apps. Read the article [here](#).

OxfordOwl: Another free eBook library for children ages 3 – 11. See the library [here](#).

Sebco eBooks: Another eBook platform that is making its children's content freely available during this time. Click [here](#) and enter the login name "keepreading", password "sebco". On the next page where you are prompted for your library card number, enter "#1".

Shel Silverstein: Harper Collins, publisher of Shel Silverstein's books of poetry, have set up a new website for National Poetry Month, Shel Silverstein Resource: Poet Trees, Read Aloud Videos, and more. Access it [here](#).

Storyline: An award-winning children's literacy website, Storyline offers videos of actors reading children's books. Activity guides are included for each title to strengthen learning and comprehension. Visit www.storylineonline.net to access the videos and learn more about the organization.

Unite for Literacy: This organization offers free, digital access to picture books. Access their collection [here](#).

Educational Resources

Common Sense Media: This nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing resources to families and children. Find an excellent list of education and entertainment options for your kids and family [here](#)

Fender: This iconic guitar company is offering three months of lessons free. Click [here](#) to get the code.

Internet Archive: This website was founded to make a true internet library of digitized materials available to scholars and researchers. They recently announced that all borrowing limits on titles would be removed, creating a National Emergency Library to provide digital books to students and the public. Visit the NEL [here](#).

K-12 Distance Education by subject: Melissa Burger, a k-12 school librarian, collected distance education resources by school subject, and is sharing them [here](#).

Kentucky Association for Gifted Education: This organization is maintaining a list of resources for teaching gifted and talented kids at home, broken up by age level and including links. See the list [here](#).

Khan Academy: This well-known site offers free videos to support kids learning. Check out their resources [here](#)

Lakeshore Learning: This well-known educational resource merchant has over 1000 items available for free download, including lesson, activities, customizable flash cards, and worksheets. Visit them [here](#).

NCDPI: The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has a webpage with resources for remote learning. Access it [here](#).

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: The NC DNCR offers the NC Learn@Home website as a gathering place for resources for parents, children, and educators. This site also offers virtual assistance from state librarians and educators. Visit the page [here](#).

The Great Courses: This website provides quality educational programs for people of all ages. Check out their courses and sign up for a free one month trial [here](#).

We are Teachers: [weareteachers.com](#) has a big list of children's authors that are offering online read-alouds and activities. There is a section just for elementary school-age kids who might not want to sit through storytime or a picture book. See the complete list [here](#).

World Book Encyclopedia Online: This resource has been made available for a limited time for free to members of our library community. Access the free online encyclopedia [here](#). If prompted, enter *wbsupport* for the username and *distancelearn* as the password. They are also offering free access to a video on [Distance Learning Resources for Parents](#)

Zoom: This videoconferencing company is providing its tools to K-12 schools for free. View the article in Forbes Magazine here: Exclusive: [Zoom CEO Eric Yuan Is Giving K-12 Schools His Videoconferencing Tools For Free](#)

Entertainment

Andrew Lloyd Webber: A new YouTube channel, The Show Must Go On, recently began free broadcasts of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals. New musicals will be released every Friday and remain available for viewing throughout the weekend. Click [here](#) to see the schedule.

Digital Escape Rooms: A number of libraries and organizations are offering digital escape rooms for bored at home kids. [Here](#) is one based on Alice in Wonderland, and [here](#) is a Harry Potter themed escape room.

Wizards of the Coast: This entertainment company is offering online Magic: The Gathering and Dungeons and Dragons events. Find out more [here](#).

For parents and teens: USA Today had an article about Netflix Party, which will allow you or your teens to have watch parties remotely. Read the article [here](#).

Metropolitan Opera: The Met is offering free streams from its catalog of HD recorded operas. The operas will be broadcast every evening at 7:30 p.m. from their webpage: <https://www.metopera.org/>

Paramount Theater: The Paramount Theater in Burlington is sponsoring video showings of local theater productions. Follow their Facebook page [here](#) for dates and showtimes. Check out the City of Burlington's Local Gov TV YouTube channel [here](#).

Sam Cam's Dance Studio: This dance studio is offering a *Frozen* themed dance class for toddlers via YouTube. Check it out [here](#).

Stratford Festival Theater: The theater is offering free streaming of 12 Shakespeare plays over the next three months. Visit their website [here](#) for the current offering, and this [article](#) offers the complete schedule.

Health and Physical Education

America's Test Kitchen: If you find yourself spending more time in the kitchen, invite your kids to join you! This favorite site has a children's page that is full of kid-friendly recipes and ideas for making your kitchen into a place for learning. Visit their page [here](#).

Cosmic Kids Yoga: A YouTube channel with videos of fun yoga and mindfulness activities for kids. Visit the YouTube page [here](#).

Walkabouts: [Walkabouts](#) are active learning adventures for kids in grades K-2. These movement rich activities are being made available free of charge to families and teachers during the extended school closures. Click [here](#) for more information on how to access these free resources.

Math and Science

60+ Awesome Websites for Teaching and Learning Math: The best math websites, according to teachers. Read the article [here](#).

Durham Museum of Science: Although the Museum itself is closed, they are adding bite-sized science activities and videos to their website. Click [here](#) to explore.

Free Code Camp: In addition to their free, online learn to code curriculum, Free Code Camp recently posted an article "[Here are 450 Ivy League courses you can take online right now for free.](#)"

Khan Academy: This well-known site offers free videos to support kids learning. Check out their resources [here](#).

Michigan Science Center: The Michigan Science Center is offering virtual science lessons with large-scale science demonstrations every afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Visit their website [here](#).

MysteryScience: This website is offering all of their science lessons to anyone for free during this time. Access their programs [here](#).

NASA: The entire media library of NASA is currently available for free. Images, videos and audios are available and include interviews with astronauts and gorgeous photos of celestial objects. Access the media library [here](#).

Prodigy: This free, game-based math platform is suitable for students in grades 1-8. Click [here](#) for more information.

Science Mom and Math Dad: Science Mom has a [YouTube channel](#) with videos on different science concepts for elementary age kids. Science Mom is teaming up with Math Dad to offer a daily show featuring science and math activities, crafts, and games. Follow their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheScienceMom/> for the live session, or visit [Science Mom on YouTube](#) for the recorded videos.

Space Station Explorers: This site featured stories read by astronauts from the International Space Station. Access the videos and find out more [here](#)

The Math Learning Center: This organization offers free math apps and games as well as lessons, publications, and other resources for math learners in grades k-12. Access their resources [here](#).

U.S. Department of Education: The Department of Education's Nation Center for Education Statistics is offering a Kid's Zone with math and graphing activities for children in grades 3-5. They also have a link to resources for educators. Access the site [here](#).

Storytime

Eric Carle: Watch acclaimed children's author Eric Carle read his famous story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* on YouTube by clicking [here](#).

Hank the Cowdog live readings: Author John R. Erickson reads excerpt from his popular *Hank the Cowdog* books, live from his ranch in Texas. Find them on YouTube [here](#).

Levar Burton: Follow Levar Burton on Twitter, where he announces his next "Levar Burton Reads" title. He also provides live Twitter readings of books for children. Click [here](#) to find him on Twitter.

Storyline: An award-winning children's literacy website, Storyline offers videos of actors reading children's books. Activity guides are included for each title to strengthen learning and comprehension. Visit www.storylineonline.net to access the videos and learn more about the organization.

Writing and Journaling

Bravewriter: This online program is designed to enhance the parent-child relationship through the teaching of writing. This week they are offering the Homebound virtual conference for free. Sessions happen daily, and you can join live or watch the recorded sessions [here](#).

Covid-19 Time Capsule: These pages are prompts for documenting stories, feelings, and what life was like under social distancing. Meant for school age children. Access the resource [here](#).

History and Virtual Field Trips

Anne Frank House Virtual Tour: This virtual tour highlights the house where Anne Frank hid from the Nazis for two years. Visit the tour [here](#).

Center for Puppetry Arts: This organization is offering virtual tours of the Jim Henson collection on Facebook Watch. Check it out [here](#).

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden: The Cincinnati Zoo is offering virtual safaris on Facebook Live everyday at 3:00 p.m. EST. Each day they will feature an animal and offer activities you can do at home. Follow their [Facebook Page](#) or visit their website: <http://cincinnati-zoo.org/> for more information.

Detroit Zoo: The Detroit Zoo is inviting you to get some Virtual Vitamin Z! The Zoo is offering educational lessons and live animal cams. Visit their website [here](#).

Harry Potter Exhibit at the British Museum: The exhibit Harry Potter: A History of Magic is being presented online for Potter fans around the world. Presented in collaboration with the British Library, this online exhibit offers such intriguing videos as Skills for a Modern Wizard: Muggle Magic! Access it [here](#).

Jamestown Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown: Although the museum and settlement are closed, they are making virtual tours and live history lessons, a video library and other interactive digital learning opportunities. Visit their website [here](#) for more information.

Library of Congress: The Library of Congress is offering interactive history presentations for all grade levels. Access their classes and presentations [here](#).

MCN: This digital publication serves museum professionals. A recent blog post (continually updated) lists free virtual museum resources as well as access to online collections. Access the blog post with links [here](#).

Mental Floss: This website calls itself ...“an encyclopedia of everything” and promises to offer “...smart, funny and shareable content in an upbeat and witty environment.” They recently published an article [12 World-Class Museums You Can Visit Online](#)

The National Endowment for the Humanities: The National Endowment for the Humanities offers classes for students in all grade levels. Access their resources [here](#).

The Smithsonian: The Smithsonian is offering virtual tours of the Natural History Museum in Washington D.C., as well as free access to their learning lab. Access the tour [here](#), and the learning lab [here](#).

Toronto Zoo: The Toronto Zoo is offering a number of online offerings including Facebook Live tours as well as a regular program for younger animal lovers through a partnership with *Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants*. Check out the Facebook Live tours [here](#), and check out the program for younger kids [here](#).

Virtual Field Trips: This google document has been shared widely on Facebook, but the original creator is not linked in the resource. The links in the document do access to the resources listed. Find the document [here](#).

Music

Daria: Daria World Music for Children offers elementary-age children the opportunity to explore musical instruments from around the world, and includes directions to make these instruments at home. Access their website [here](#).

Classic FM: This organization, in partnership with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Decca Classics to present the Classical 100 music education resource. Usually available only to schools, it is being made available to everyone during the pandemic. Check out the website [here](#).

Physical Education (P.E.)

GoNoodle: This website offers fun movement and mindfulness activities for the whole family. Access their resources [here](#).

HIIT Workouts: This YouTube channel offers themed workouts with characters from classic superhero comics as well as Star Wars, Harry Potter, and more! Access the channel [here](#).

The Body Coach: The Body Coach offers free workout videos every morning on YouTube. Access them [here](#).

For Parents (Information and Support)

Adult Coloring Books*: Book Riot recently ran an article with links to several artists who have made coloring pages available for free. Click [here](#) to read the article. ***May not be appropriate for children***

No Kid Hungry NC: This organization provides support and information on availability of free meals for kids. Visit the website [here](#), or text FOODNC or COMIDA to 877-877 and you will receive a text back with the 3 closest places to get meals for children under the age of 18.

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: This agency has set up a hotline for older adults to call if they are feeling isolated. The hotline is available from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily at (866) 578-HOPE (4673)

Spectrum: For families without access to the internet, Spectrum is offering free services. Here is an article published by WKBW, Buffalo, NY about the program:

<https://www.wkbw.com/news/national/coronavirus/spectrumto-offer-free-broadband-and-wifi-to-students-without-it>. The phone number listed in the article for more information and to enroll: 1-844-488-8398.

Consumer Reports has a Coronavirus Resource Hub that is available free of charge. Access it [here](#).

NPR: NPR reporter Cory Turner interviewed several experts to find out what kids needed to hear about the coronavirus. The result was a comic. View (and print) a version for your kids [here](#). If you would like to listen to or read the segment that led to the comic, you can find it [here](#).

School Library Journal: SLJ published an article on March 11, 2020 entitled *A Mini-Clearinghouse on Coronavirus, Created by Two School Librarians*. The article is geared more towards library staff, but the resources will work for all. See the article [here](#).

Alamance County Resources:

ABSS Coronavirus School Nutrition: ABSS has posted information about lunch sites that are available to children (under the age of 18) Monday through Friday. Sites are drop in and pick up only. They are anticipating expanding the program to include breakfast. For more information, check the [ABSS website](#).

Alamance County Public Libraries' Resources: Visit [ACPL on Facebook](#) for our live storytimes. Follow our page [here](#). ACPL offers a wide selection of digital resources including eBooks, e-Audiobooks, and digital magazines for all ages. Information on online resources can be found at <https://www.alamancelibraries.org/reference-research/online-research-tools/> or contact your local branch.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies of Alamance County: This organization is running a virtual baby shower. Check out their [Amazon wish list](#) to purchase items for families in need in Alamance County. All items purchased will be delivered to families in need through the Dream Center, For more information, see their Facebook post [here](#).

Paramount Theater: The Paramount Theater in Burlington is sponsoring video showings of local theater productions. Follow their Facebook page [here](#) for dates and showtimes. Check out the City of Burlington's Local Gov TV YouTube channel [here](#).

SAFE: If you are concerned about children who rely on school for meals, the Southern Alamance Family Empowerment Food Pantry is offering to help. Families in need can call 336-675-3859 for arrangements. If you are able to help, visit the website at <https://www.safealamance.org/> and click on the tab for "current needs."

Senior Shopping Hours: Several area stores are offering special times for seniors to shop. Target has designated the first hour of the morning on Wednesdays, Dollar General has designated the first hour of each day they are open, and Steve's Garden market is offering a senior hour the first hour of each day they are open. See a full list published in the Burlington Times News [here](#).

United Way of Alamance County: The UWAC has set up a special campaign, #Help4Alamance, to assess and provide for needs in the community. See their post [here](#).