

# Tips for homeschooling



## Helping kids keep learning

As schools around the country close their doors, parents are looking for ways to keep their children actively learning. Some schools may offer online lessons or send home course packets to help keep students on track with lessons. However, many students may not have laptops or tablets needed to keep in regular contact with teachers, so children may rely more on their parents for help and direction.

### Tips from industry experts



#### Start with a good plan<sup>1</sup>

Every child is different. Some children may excel when working independently while others may need extra support and direction, according to advice from Children's National Hospital.



#### Encourage children to pursue interests<sup>2</sup>

Homeschooling offers children a chance to try something new or pursue other interests. Children can practice math skills when learning to cook or join an online book club.



#### Tap into unexpected resources<sup>3</sup>

Many websites offer parents several educational resources, but you can also find educational opportunities at home. National Geographic suggests having children watch television with closed captions to practice reading. Children can also help create a budget for grocery shopping or write letters to family to build their writing skills.



#### Create a time and place for learning<sup>4</sup>

Find one or two places in the home designated for learning. It helps when children have a routine and know when and where to go for their education.



#### Be flexible and forgiving<sup>5</sup>

While the previous point says to establish a routine, it's also important to be flexible during this time, according to NPR Kids. It's OK to let children sleep in a little later if they need the sleep. It's also OK if parents don't have all the answers right now. Many teachers and parents are learning how to navigate this new education landscape and it takes time to adjust.

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<sup>1</sup> Children's National, Tips for Homeschooling During the Coronavirus Outbreak, <https://riseandshine.childrensnational.org/tips-for-homeschooling-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>.

<sup>2</sup> Education Week, Teaching Kids at Home During Coronavirus: Pro Tips from Homeschoolers, [https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2020/03/how\\_to\\_home\\_school\\_your\\_kids\\_during\\_the\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic\\_advice\\_from\\_homeschoolers.html](https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2020/03/how_to_home_school_your_kids_during_the_coronavirus_pandemic_advice_from_homeschoolers.html).

<sup>3</sup> National Geographic, Homeschooling tips for the coronavirus shutdown, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/in-the-news/homeschooling-tips-coronavirus-shutdown/>.

<sup>4</sup> NWEA, 4 Tips for Families Homeschooling During the Coronavirus Pandemic, <https://www.nwea.org/blog/2020/4-family-homeschooling-tips-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>.

<sup>5</sup> NPR, "Tips For Homeschooling During Coronavirus," <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/23/820228206/6-tips-for-homeschooling-during-coronavirus>.

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