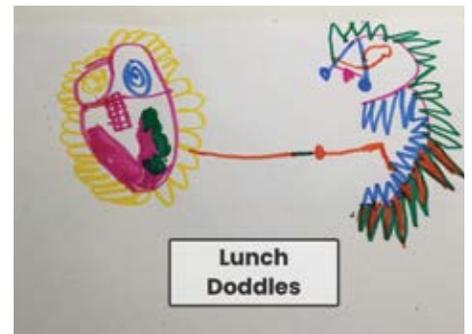


Helpful Tips for Online Learning

Learning At-Home, Together

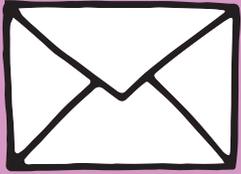
Thank you for all your kind words of support over the past few weeks. It takes a lot to make this online learning thing work and we know, we are travelling through this adventure alongside you. We are so impressed by all you are doing, the questions you are asking, how you are settling into a learning routine, making helpful suggestions and working right alongside us. We know this is hard.



Helpful Tips for Online Learning



We have learned a whole lot these past few weeks and want to share some things that can help us all work better until we can be back in the classroom together.



Children need to sign into the meet-up from their own email addresses. Otherwise, we have to grant permission to join our group each time, and because we are paying attention to so many things, we are worried about missing you.



Please help your child find a quiet spot for their class meetings or small group times. The ambient noise is distracting and our goal is to help students focus and share as easily as possible. Literacy instruction in particular requires us to hear articulation and express ourselves clearly.



Consider giving your child headphones. It's important that they hear us clearly, and vice versa. Of course, you may not realize, that we can still hear all of the background noise.

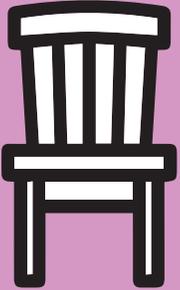


Find one location for the device. When children walk around with their devices it adds to distraction, plus it creates a lot of noise, as do food wrappers.



We are starting to view online group time just like classroom group time and we can't pick every child to share every time. This would just take too much time. As well as time constraints, it is a natural classroom occurrence not to be called upon everytime and helps your child to build resilience with age appropriate disappointment.

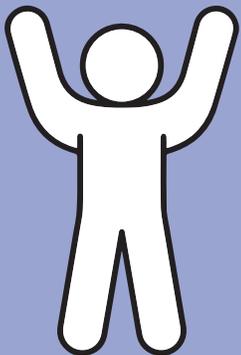
Helpful Tips for Online Learning



If your child is sitting and working at a table, such as the dining table, please be sure to have their feet firmly planted on a surface. Any surface. Why you wonder? It's challenging for children to be focused when they are busy at using their core strength, especially for more than just a few minutes. Having their feet firmly planted on the ground, helps to stabilize and leave more energy for attention.



Do what works for your child and your family situation at the moment, on that day, at that time. We are trying to give you options but don't feel you must accomplish everything. Along that same vein, please be sure to take breaks - following group time, break time, a bit of work, a bit of play. Let's teach our children to persevere, learn from struggle, but also to create balance in their approach to learning.



Please support your child as they work and develop independence. It's an essential skill we practice and develop daily when at school. We understand that our students will require assistance at times, but they are also doing amazingly developing independence. Whispering answers, and telling them to listen seems helpful but it also communicates that you don't think they are able. Trust that we can modify and will provide support, and that you can use this opportunity to have some time to do other things.

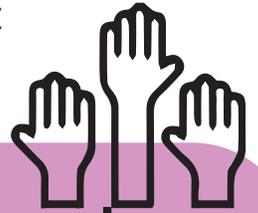


For projects loaded on Seesaw, consider what your child can do independently or with only a little support. There are times when projects are sent for the whole school (grade one in particular), and our youngest students haven't always learned the skills needed to complete the project.

How to Set-up your Child for Success



Here are some things you can practice with your child at home that would help set them up for success.



Muting and unmuting the microphone.

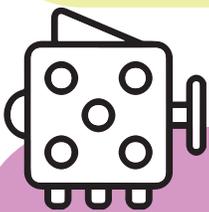
Silent signals like a hand up when they want to share or contribute and a silent cheer (jazz hands) when they want to cheer or compliment a friend.



How to use their headphones and not tug on the cord.

WC

Getting into the routine of going to the bathroom before the meeting begins.



Choosing a quiet and small fidget to have nearby for those that need.



Children need to keep their video cameras on. There are several reasons for this but most of all, the on and off is distracting to others. If they don't want to be on camera, we suggest laptops pointed towards the ceiling or having your child sit off to the side.

Having Fun is so Important!



One of the most important things for us to do during this time is to have fun! Mental wellness is important for all of us :)

Feel like going on a family vacation?

Even though we have to stay home right now, there are many places to visit virtually. [Check out these resources](#) to virtually go exploring. Click on each box to access the link.

Don't just watch! Many of the tools let you move around.



Stefanie shared this lovely children's colouring book story to help kids understand what's going on in the world!

The PDF is attached [here](#). Feel free to print it out and use it with your kids and forward it along to anyone else you think may be into it.

Enjoy!

