



May 1, 2020

Distance Learning Parent Newsletter, Issue 5

English Learner Support Division
California Department of Education

A Letter from the California Department of Education (CDE)

DEAR PARENTS,

Each week this newsletter will focus on a different theme and will provide information and resources to parents on that theme.

This week the topic is English Language Arts (ELA). Students at all grade levels receive ELA instruction, which includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. English learners are also learning the English language while participating in ELA.

Parents play a critical role in helping their children develop literacy by talking, singing, and reading with them starting when they are babies. Parents can support older children and teens with literacy by continuing to read together, encouraging children to read, and by asking older children who are independent readers questions about what they are reading. For families that speak a language other than English at home, talking and reading in the home language helps children with literacy in both languages!

New Informational Resources

Colorín Colorado: Reading Resources for Parents

Help Your Child Learn to Read

This collection of resources includes advice for supporting children with reading by age group, babies and toddlers to independent readers, and other helpful tips, information, and activities.

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/help-your-child-learn-read>.

How to Read an E-Book with Your Child

This article offers practical tips for parents for reading electronic books, or e-books, with children. There are links to free e-books in the elementary home learning resources section of this newsletter below.

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/how-read-e-book-your-child>.

Reading Rockets: Literacy Tips for Parents

Developing Writing and Spelling at Home

This article includes tips for parents to help support their children with writing at home and includes ideas for activities that can be done at home without a device or screen time.

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/developing-writing-and-spelling-home>

25 Activities for Reading and Writing Fun

This article includes a list of literacy activities by age span: birth to preschool, preschool through grade 2, and grades 3 through 6. Many of these activities can be done with things around the house and do not require a device or screen time.

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/25-activities-reading-and-writing-fun>

Informational Resources Included Every Week

School Lunch Information: CA Meals for Kids

Parents can still pick up school lunches during COVID-19 related school closures. Use the "CA Meals for Kids" mobile app to find meals or you can contact your school district directly for more information. Some districts now offer home delivery for school lunches.

Parents should contact their child's school to see if the school has opted into this optional program.

News Release: CA Meals for Kids App Update at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/497627>

Getting Internet Access

If you do not have access to the internet at home, there are several companies offering service to families. Contact the companies listed on the link below to discuss available plans.

Getting Internet Access: Available Plans at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/498321>

Home Learning Resources

Below are free recommended resources that you can use with your children at home or they can use on their own.

Elementary Resources

Unite for Literacy

Choose from a wide variety of books with text in either English or Spanish and audio in a variety of additional languages including Arabic, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Books are organized by categories (plants and food, animals, earth and sky, etc.) and include both fiction and nonfiction options. Change the language by clicking the pencil icon in the upper left corner and selecting your preferred language.

<https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>

The Fable Cottage

This website provides children's stories in English, Spanish, French, Italian, and German with the option to have the text read aloud. Stories also include an accompanying video with visuals.

www.thefablecottage.com

Secondary Resources

Open Culture

This website provides links to download free audiobooks, mostly classics, to an MP3 player, phone, or computer.

<http://www.openculture.com/freeaudiobooks>

New York Times: Over 1,000 Writing Prompts for Students

The *New York Times* published a list of journaling prompts for teenagers by category. Categories include technology, arts and entertainment, school and career, identity and family, social life and leisure time, science and health, and civics and history. Journaling is a great way to building writing skills and confidence and with these prompts, teenagers can choose topics that interest them. Each prompt includes a short article for students to read and then questions to guide their journaling.

<https://bit.ly/NYTprompts>

Newsela

Newsela provides free articles on a variety of topics including science, the arts, health, and sports. Students can read articles at their reading level by selecting their grade level (articles are available in grades 2 through 12 reading levels). Many articles are also available in Spanish.

<https://newsela.com/>

Social Media and Email

To stay up to date with new resources and information, follow the CDE English Learner Support Division on Twitter [@MultilingualCA](https://twitter.com/MultilingualCA).

To subscribe to the English Learner Updates Listserv, send a blank email to join-english-learner-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov.