



May 8, 2020

Distance Learning Parent Newsletter, Issue 6

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 resources for parents of students with disabilities. Parents of students with disabilities need equitable access to strategies and tools necessary to provide an appropriate education during distance learning.

A common strategy that teachers use is to model what is being asked of the child/student. Modelling involves a four-step process:

1. I (adult) do it, you (student) watch
2. I do it, you help
3. You do it, I help
4. You do it

This process provides the student time to practice with support before trying to master a new skill independently. This is one strategy that parents can do with children at home when learning any new skill, from tying shoes to a math problem.

New Informational Resources

Family Empowerment Centers (FEC)

FECs provide services to families of children (ages three to twenty-two) with disabilities. Each center ensures that parents, guardians, and families of children and young adults with disabilities have access to accurate information, specialized training, and peer-to-peer support.

For more information about FECs throughout the state, refer to the California FECs on Disability handout available on the Exceptional Family Resource Center web page at https://www.efrconline.org/myadmin/files/fedc_facts.pdf. This document includes a map with FECs throughout the state and their websites and phone numbers so families can find and contact an FEC near them.

Also see the Seeds of Partnership California FEC web page at <https://www.seedsofpartnership.org/familyEmpowerment.html>.

Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC)

PTIC provides parents of children (ages birth through twenty-six) with disabilities with the training and information they need to help their children. The PTIC serves all parents of children with disabilities including low-income parents, parents of English learners, and parents with disabilities. Some of the services that PTICs offer include workshops, parent-to-parent support, support groups, and resources.

For more information on PTICs throughout the state including links to their websites and their contact information, visit the CDE Parent Organizations web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/caprntorg.asp#pti>.

Parents Helping Parents (PHP)

The PHP organization supports, educates, and inspires families and the community to build bright futures for youth and adults with special needs. The PHP E-Learning Library includes videos, podcasts, and e-packets on a wide variety of topics to help families caring for a loved one with special needs. The website also includes links to support groups focused on a variety of topics. This website is available in English or Spanish. Click “English” at the top of the page to change the language.

To access these resources, visit the PHP website at <https://www.php.com/>.

CDE Frequently Asked Question: Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) during Distance Learning

Question: I'm a parent of a student with a disability and I have questions about my child's IEP. Where can I go for information and support?

Answer: Questions about your student's IEP and educational program in light of school site closures and the COVID-19 pandemic should be discussed with your school or district. Schools across the state are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in different ways, specific to the school's regional context. The CDE encourages parents to reach out to their school or district office to have a conversation about the impact of the pandemic on their student's education and collaborative ways to support the student during this time.

Parents of students with disabilities may also reach out to California's parent organizations offering support and resources to families of students with disabilities. Information on parent organizations can be accessed on the CDE California Parent Organizations web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/qa/caprntorg.asp>.

In addition, the Understood.org website is an example of numerous state and national organizations offering practical advice and strategies for parents and caregivers during this crisis. A link to COVID-19 resources for parents and families developed by Understood can be accessed on the Understood.org website at <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/coronavirus-latest-updates>.

The question and answer above are from the CDE Special Education Guidance for COVID-19 web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/498479>.

Legal Aid Work: List of Relief Funds for Undocumented Workers in California

To assist undocumented workers who have lost their jobs or income as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak, Legal Aid at Work has compiled a list of known relief funds for undocumented workers. This list will be updated regularly.

A chart with information in multiple languages is available on the Legal Aid Work New Resource: A List of Relief Funds for Undocumented Works in California web page at <https://legalaidatwork.org/blog/relief-funds/>.

Feeding America: Find Your Local Foodbank

Feeding America is a nationwide network of food banks. To find a foodbank in your area, fill out the state and zip code in the search box on the Feeding America Find Your Local Food Bank web page at <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>.

How to Make a Face Mask

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 web page at <https://bit.ly/CDCFacemask> offers information about facemasks and tutorials in multiple languages on how to make your own facemask. To change the language on this web page, click “other languages” at the top of the page and select your preferred language.

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.

CDE 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.

Special Education Resources

Storyline Online

This children's literacy program provides access to stories read aloud. Reading aloud to children is shown to improve reading, writing, and communication skills, logical thinking and concentration, and general academic aptitude, as well as inspire a lifelong love of reading. When you select a story to read, click on the story and then click "YouTube" to watch the reading.

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

Starfall

This program is especially effective for special education, homeschooling, and English language development (ELD). It is widely used in schools that serve children with special needs and learning difficulties.

<https://www.starfall.com/h/index.php>

Social Media and Email

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

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