

Community Guide

Our school community may face changes in regard to education over the coming weeks. This may include the closure of schools in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. At this time there are a number of things you can do to continue learning and maintain connection beyond our usual school setting.

What can I do to support my student during this period?

- Talk about the virus in a manner which is appropriate to their age. Find out what they know, correct any misinformation, teach them how to prevent spreading germs or research it with them. Here's a great [website](#) to support this activity.
- Familiarise yourself with things you can do to support learning at home. If your school doesn't provide this advice, there are many great resources out there like this one from [Western Australia](#).
- Communicate with your student's teacher(s) if you have any questions regarding their learning program, in case of a school closure.
- Ask what they might need to complete their learning successfully at home. Stock up on a few essentials like post-it notes, coloured pencils, highlighters, unlined and lined paper, and pens/pencils. Where possible, ensure they have access to an appropriate device and internet to support online learning.
- Consider where your student might feel comfortable working without distractions.
- Create a "learning" space within your home that can be made their own.
- Familiarise yourself with your student's learning program, so you can get a sense of how much they should be doing each day for each subject. Prepare a timetable so that they can keep to a routine.
- Make sure your child knows how to communicate with their teacher(s).
- Take into account that your child won't see their friends. Negotiate appropriate ways in which they can maintain connections to their peers. You can do this by setting up virtual playdates with their friends through video chat.
- Encourage a period of physical activity each day. This will help keep them active and reduce boredom.
- 'Help' at home means providing support, encouraging, listening, praising, guiding and discussing – there is no expectation that families will 'teach' school subjects.
- Use the opportunity to do projects you've been wanting to do with your student. Whether it is learning how to bake, doing an art project or starting a blog, there are many ways to be creative with your student.