



Lower Grade Home Activities During COVID-19 School Closure

- Get outside! Activities like family walks, riding bikes, planting flowers, and drawing with chalk can be great activities to help kids stay moving
- Use YouTube to learn a new skill such as Yoga. There are a variety of free kid-friendly exercise classes available online.
- While you can just put out toys for unstructured free play, kids also get excited when parents facilitate some of the fun. Think of activities as “invitations to play. Easy indoor activities can be a lifeline, a great way to practice school skills and a way to quietly entertain kids. These activities do not need to be complicated or take hours to set up. As you plan your schedule, think of places where an activity might be helpful to transition from one time block to the next, like after snack time or before dinner.

Here are four easy indoor activities perfect for breaking up a day:

- **Box Road** – Flatten out a box and draw a road in marker. Add blocks, trucks and other toys for kids to build a city.
- **Toy-Washing Bin** – Let your kids wash their plastic toys. Add tear-free bubbles, sponges, towels and other supplies.
- **Trash Art** – Find some recycled materials and let your kids paint them. Kids love painting random objects and making beautiful creations from them
- **Sticky Match-Up** – Draw shapes, letters, numbers, words or math problems on sticky notes and hide them around the house for your child to find. Then have the child match them up on a “key” that hangs on the wall.
- Repackage old toys that kids haven’t used in a while. Sometimes simply representing an activity to a child after a few months “off” can make the item feel new and different!
- Bear broke his arm. Can you make him a cast?
Contents: medical bandages, gauze, play doctor kit, stuffed animal

- Can you make the longest path ever for your special trucks?
Contents: small trucks/cars, masking tape, small snacks that can fit in trucks (e.g. cheerios, crackers, raisins)
Instructions: help your child use masking tape to “build” roads on the floor around the house. Let them
- Let’s build a village!
Contents: old cereal boxes, mailing boxes, oatmeal containers, construction paper, markers
Instructions: help child wrap old boxes with colorful paper and decorate the boxes to look like different buildings. The child can set the boxes up to create their own little world! This activity works great in garages or driveways where children can draw roads and other features with chalk. Children can build their “town” over the course of many days and integrate other toys (e.g. cards, dolls) to accessorize their village, too!
- Let’s “clean”!
Content: spray bottle, wash cloths
Instructions: help child fill bottle with water and allow them to spray and wipe down surfaces
- Can you make the animals a stable out of cards?
Contents: small figurines, scissors, box of playing cards
Instructions: help child cut slits in card and stack cards together to make structures, such as homes for toy figurines
- Let’s make a storybook about you!
Contents: Inexpensive photobooks, old family photos, construction paper, pens
Instructions: help child create a story book about a recent vacation, their family, or a topic of interest. Children can also cut out pictures from magazines or old books to create a story.
- Hey karaoke star – make yourself an outfit, and let’s sing!
Contents: flashlight, oversized adult clothing that can be destroyed, scissors, YouTube karaoke
Instructions: allow child to cut and restructure existing clothing into a new “outfit,” then attend their karaoke performance (flashlights make great microphones!)
- Let’s make a diorama!
Contents: white tissue paper, tape, scissors, foil, old holiday cards and/or story books
Instructions: Remove the top from an old shoe box or delivery box and cut a small view-hole in one of the short ends. Help your child create a three-dimensional scene by cutting and taping various pictures and materials inside the box. Once the scene is complete, tape a piece of white tissue paper over the top. Your child can look through the view hole to see their scene come to life! This activity is a great way to repurpose old holiday cards or even story books that your child may have grown out of.
- Let’s use old clothes to make your doll a new dress!
Contents: small fashion doll, old clothing, scissors, ribbon, glue
Instructions: Allow your child to cut up old clothing to create new outfits for his or her doll



Upper Grade Activities During COVID-19 School Closure

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- Use YouTube to learn a new skill such as Yoga. There are a variety of free kid-friendly exercise classes available online
- Let's bake Technicolor cupcakes!
Contents: Box of white cake mix, whisk, cupcake foils, food coloring
Instructions: Experiment with different color combinations as you bake together
- Grab some sheets, and let's make a movie fort!
Contents: Flashlight, box of popcorn
Instructions: Allow your child to use bedsheets to create a fort where they can watch a favorite movie (with popcorn!)
- Let's practice writing and send a loved one or your teacher some mail!
Contents: pre-addressed envelopes, blank cards, postage stamps, decoration items
- Consider using the time together to take care of others. Kids can send letters to members of the armed forces, draw pictures for elderly neighbors in nursing homes, clean out items to donate to those in need, etc.
- Let's have a spa day!
Contents: nail polish, nail files, bath bomb or bubble bath, washcloth
Instructions: Use the tub to let children "soak" feet and paint nails
- Let's "clean"!
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