

# GOING THE DISTANCE



A weekly update for Distance Learners at Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School

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From the Distance Learning Coordinator, Lisa Smith-Horn

## SCHOLASTIC

Scholastic Book Clubs are a great way to build home libraries at reasonable price. Scholastic is now shipping directly to homes (for a flat rate shipping fee of \$6.50). And the school earns points toward free books!

Class Order Due Date: **10/23/20**

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Class Code: JC9QY



**Did You Know:** Just 20 minutes a day reading aloud with young children strengthens relationships, encourages listening and language skills, promotes attention and curiosity, and establishes a strong reading foundation. These skills are essential for success in school and in life. It takes hundreds of hours of “lap time” for a child to acquire the pre-literacy skills necessary for learning to read early and well. From birth to age five, the pleasant activity of listening to and talking about stories trains a child’s brain, ears and eyes for eventual success in learning to read.

## Why is Small Group Important?

Attendance at small group and mini lessons has many benefits. The smaller group size allows the student more access to adult interaction, which impacts learning in all areas.

Small Groups:

- are designed to meet specific instructional goals.
- respond to the interests, needs and learning styles of the students.
- enable the teacher to make detailed observations of language and other skills. Students can be heard more accurately and consistently.
- introduce new materials and concepts.
- encourage meaningful conversation, discourse and sharing of ideas.
- expand language and vocabulary. The teacher can ask more questions and provide direct feedback. Students also hear each others’ language.
- extend children’s thinking through questions and posing new challenges.

***In distance learning, small group is especially important as it is an opportunity to build the student-teacher and student-student relationships. Less time muted and more time connecting is one of the benefits of meeting with a smaller number of children.***

## Second Step Home Link



### Lesson Time

**Adam accidentally runs into Mike’s bike.**

Your child is learning how to tell when something happens by accident. An accident is when we do something we didn’t mean to do.

When something happens by accident, your child can:

- 1) Say, “It was an accident. I didn’t mean to. Are you okay?”
- 2) Do something to help

Understanding that sometimes things happen by accident helps your child get along with others.

### Story Time

Play a pretend game with your child to practice responding to accidents.

Say: We’re going to play a pretend game. We’ll take turns pretending something happened by accident. Pretend I spilled milk on your drawing. Model what to say: It was an accident. I didn’t mean to. Say how you’ll help: I’ll wipe it up.

Take turns using other pretend accidents.