

GOING THE DISTANCE



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

From the Distance Learning Coordinator, Lisa Smith-Horn NOVEMBER 6, 2020

Thank you to the families to who completed the District Climate Survey. It is very helpful to get feedback and ideas to help us move forward and continually make the distance learning school more meaningful and impactful. The following bullets are in response to some of the comments to add clarification or explanation:

Materials: We are in the process of compiling packages of materials to those families who responded to the materials survey. Following the distribution of materials, we will be able to assign projects that involve more fine motor practice such as cutting.

If possible please purchase a spiral bound notebook for your child. Each Monday small group will be journal writing and it would be nice to have a record of your child's writing in one place. Your child will also feel special to have his or her own journal!

Assignments: Our challenge is to educate children at many different levels. We usually attach an extension activity to assignments, for students who are developmentally at a higher level. If there is a specific area in which you want more individualized assignments, feel free to reach out to one of your teachers. Additionally, for parents seeking more assignments, please refer to the lesson plans which are posted every Friday. There is a section at the bottom which has suggestions for indoor and outdoor activities.

Family Friday Projects: The Friday projects are designed to best meet the needs of families. We intentionally keep it open ended so you and your family can participate in the way that works best for your circumstances and comfort level. It is an opportunity for students to experience less structured activities. That being said, please know that we respect whatever level of project involvement you choose. Do not ever feel obligated to post a video or even photo. Projects can be shared through writing (you can type a summary), voice recording or even an illustration with a scribed description.

Zoom Meetings: As per the Bloomfield Board of Education, lessons are not required to be recorded. The amount of direct instruction we provide aligns with the preschool requirements of Addendum 12 of the CT Department of Education's Advance, Adapt, Achieve document. Recommended daily learning time for preschool includes 30 minutes of direct instruction. With two daily meetings, two daily Seesaw activities and one mini lesson a week, you can see we far exceed the recommended learning time. This is intentional so we can offer families the most learning opportunities. Additionally, we strongly believe that young children's "device" time should be limited. We attempt to balance screen time and hands on learning through play and family interactions.

Resources: There are many free resources for reading. Here are a few that provide high quality stories. We will continue to vet more online resources to share with you.

- [Storyline Online](#) [Free Children's Stories](#)

Five Minute Chats: Moving forward we will have five minutes on the first Friday of each month beginning today! Our next 5 minute chat morning will be scheduled on Dec. 4th. Of course, if you feel the need to connect, please reach out to your teachers and we will accommodate you.

Second Step Home Link

Your child is learning that sometimes he or she has strong feelings that are uncomfortable. Your child is also learning about feeling frustrated. Children can feel frustrated when they are trying to do something that is really hard. Children are learning this step for when they feel frustrated: Put your hands on your tummy and say "Stop" to begin calming down.

Play a game with your child. Practice calming down while trying to do something really hard, such as buttoning a coat, tying a shoe, or

putting together a new puzzle.

Say: **We're going to play Freeze! while you are buttoning your coat.** Explain the game. **You will start buttoning your coat. When I say "Freeze!" you stop, put your hands on your tummy, and notice if your body feels uncomfortable. If you are feeling frustrated, you say "Stop!" Then when I say "Go," start buttoning your coat again.** Play the game while your child tries one or two difficult tasks.

 SCHOLASTIC

Class Order Due
Date: **12/7/20**

Connect to Our Class
Page: [HERE](#)

Shop the flyers for
your child's grade:
[HERE](#)

