March 2020- Edition #1

**There are so many wonderful creative ideas and websites circulating but here are a few of our favorites for ARK families to consider & explore! Parents……We encourage you to post your favorites on class Shutterfly sites!**

**Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems** - <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/>

**Storyline Online-** The SAG-AFTRA Foundation’s award-winning children’s literacy website, Storyline Online, streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children’s books alongside creatively produced illustrations. Readers include Viola Davis, Chris Pine, Lily Tomlin, Kevin Costner, Annette Benning, James Earl Jones, Betty White and dozens more. -  <https://www.storylineonline.net/>

**List A Big List of Podcasts for Little Kids:** Here’s a list of great shows to keep kids ages 2 through 6, and their caretakers, occupied. A variety of options: stories, educational, meditation, music[:  //www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/parenting/podcasts-for-kids.html?smid=fb-nytparenting&fbclid=IwAR0quoO6gAjikGXOxcp5ZdME8ZV--vOTqOQkchvb1v9ndo3kkSB2ar90Kbs](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/parenting/podcasts-for-kids.html?smid=fb-nytparenting&fbclid=IwAR0quoO6gAjikGXOxcp5ZdME8ZV--vOTqOQkchvb1v9ndo3kkSB2ar90Kbs)

[**teachpreschool.org**](http://teachpreschool.org/) is recommended for preschool teachers by Maryland early education curriculum teachers. It gives activity ideas for all the learning domains and has thoughtful weekly newsletters. Check out the one about Covid19.

**parenttoolkit.com** offers free resources to empower parents and caregivers with practical advice to support their child’s overall development. Includes early education domains in academics and social/emotional development.

[**scholastic.com**](https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html) offers free resources. Check out Scholastic’s Learn@Home: Free Resources for School Closures. Provides 20-days of active learning journeys designed to reinforce and sustain educational opportunities for students unable to attend school.

**stories.audible.com** are hosting a free selection of stories hand-picked by their editors for children across all ages. Tap into these audibles and enjoy some quiet time while schools are out!

[**news@-insectlore.com**](mailto:news@-insectlore.com)Follow our Blog which provides topics that help kids stay curious & engaged!

**cincinnatizoo.com** The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden has launched “Home Safaris” broadcasts live and on Facebook. At 3 p.m. daily, a different animal will be featured for parents and kids to learn about. The zoo included an activity for families to do at home.

**worshiphousekids.com** - Access Sing & Celebrate songs used in 4s worship! Great for all

**Join us for our first virtual Sing & Celebrate featuring Chapel Leader, Susan Donsky. We will continue Sing and Celebrate worship every week! Tune in and PRAISE the Lord…**  <https://oakdale.church/the-ark-childrens-center/#csec-ark-stay-connected>

**Things to do WITH your kids at home.**The most important element is to be present with your time and attention. Try new things but also be aware of your child’s nature bend toward interests:

-          Make a fort.

-          Have kids put on a puppet show or talent show

-          Play board games or card games

-          Use art supplies and get messy

- Create sidewalk murals (positive words & beautiful graphics)

-          Create a treasure hunt for kids

-          Suggest having kids pick up litter in their neighborhood

- Write cards and color pictures for the elderly or first responders

-          Make jewelry

-          Find fun science projects to do online or kitchen science

-          Have a photo shoot and create a photo collage or scrapbook

-          Dig in the garden. Look at worms and other creatures. Plant seeds. Notice blooming bulbs.

-          Build a large puzzle

-          Have a singing or dancing competition

-          Explore playing an instrument

-          Make a bird feeder

-          Explore a new language

-      Get outside and go for walks, hikes, play sports, jump rope. Look for God Sightings!

-      Cook together

-      Teach life skills & promote teamwork.

folding clothes, sorting laundry, empty the dishwasher, feed the dog, wash the car, raking & weeding the garden beds, plant flower bulbs and spread mulch

Did you know? **National Walking Day** is Wednesday, April 1st

We are all working together to figure out the best ways to handle these unprecedented times. It’s important to make sure our children are feeling safe and calm.

We’ve found a couple of articles that give tips on how to talk to children about COVID-19:

* [Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource from the National Association of School Psychologist (NASP)](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001NycvrnKUBNYlFJqKAgpWInOGiNtUCG0PgZwsH8V0xbJn4xtMoRYqU-CGhqH9jHQ0bV518RqY0dyaz0FNYdg8GObGLnZKUxlat7pj0cgxwfyrbJaPbMCqXjghI0wAYmoEn2yx_V9CLBh4YUawn1in6GPnB0lRn0Qvhfle6FIjYJd-rUrneB4HCSo9QZ7_42LcUPC9tA8tnkHwT6Jmeq7RkmGcezTqbWbH70YZHZ8peCYc0l3L69x1rGpGeafOc7IeBq7iFL32LLuvaeA8OZNz1KneT9RbD_YhVpZ0IWm8w7CMhk5-FXwG9buuXWhM64zZX3GGvaGcYzvYyFBgqC2Lckj05Sv4na0q8yjJDwgVgBYB-Z_7RziKzHjAc3tIKz6ulEx6MsycP74=&c=vWPtOVIvwcsM6t3dOO4r1_N4ixR3ykqaDSVXU2NevzZihDtFHR8Ctg==&ch=YYYoKLuRniHjpEAzbhDY-ll1TaZNckNDIu4JbHMWiPQ7facPQ01vGQ==)
* [Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff, and others working with children from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001NycvrnKUBNYlFJqKAgpWInOGiNtUCG0PgZwsH8V0xbJn4xtMoRYqU-CGhqH9jHQ0Q0JZLOdFoNQVBJPN8-qE8T_5EzsypbAwOgeYcaLc1KsBLzi59Kt_twYgXRKESxd-IPiD9ZbNPOFX2BfWSUsh98yXVAdBRugKj-RxpRpUPiVyvK3mWbz2GDx-TWUgED__iKxzYtnAkFgts097C9eGczyZ4TwHxrbvYgmO48BW8Qvf7FHl7oEh_bRJxGO6JMCW&c=vWPtOVIvwcsM6t3dOO4r1_N4ixR3ykqaDSVXU2NevzZihDtFHR8Ctg==&ch=YYYoKLuRniHjpEAzbhDY-ll1TaZNckNDIu4JbHMWiPQ7facPQ01vGQ==)
* St. Jude’s Hospital has also created a wonderful coloring book about the Coronavirus that is age appropriate for children. Checkout: Coronavirus Coloring Book.pdf