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- This resource was shared with Therapist Toolbox by our friend Scott Apgar, from [Academics West](#). Thank you Scott for being a helpful resource for all!
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Free Online Events and Activities for Kids at Home

Source: [Common Sense Media](#)

Thanks to the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the 2019 coronavirus, it feels like everything is getting canceled. Schools are closed, sports and performing arts are postponed, and field trips are out of the question. And for many parents who are practicing social distancing with their kids at home, finding ways to break up the day and give kids a sense of routine has been a real challenge. One of the silver linings is that authors, artists, musicians, and creators of educational tools are stepping up to offer free lessons, tours, and concerts that you can check out from the safety of your home.

Whether you want easy lesson plans from Scholastic, a living room concert from John Legend, or a drawing lesson from Mo Willems, there's no shortage of fun things to do online. We even have tools to help you find free or reduced-cost internet in your area. So check out this list of resources and events (we'll be updating it as new things are announced).

Scheduled (all times in Pacific Time)

Virtual Storytimes

- 11:00 a.m. -- **Stay at Home Story Time, a ~20 min. picture book read-aloud with Oliver Jeffers (*Lost and Found* author)** (Instagram Live @oliverjeffers, uploaded to YouTube after)

- 11:00 a.m. -- [Brightly Storytime](#), a 5–10 min. picture book read-aloud (YouTube @ Brightly Storytime)
- 12:00 p.m. -- [Mac Barnett](#) (*Triangle*) reads one of his picture books (Instagram Live @MacBarnett)
- ~12:00 p.m. -- [Jeff Norton](#) reads a chapter (5–10 min.) of his sci-fi adventure novel *Alienated* (YouTube @Jeff Norton)
- ~6:00–9:00 p.m. -- [Josh Gad](#) (voice of Olaf from *Frozen*) will virtually read a picture book as a bedtime story (Twitter @JoshGad)

Virtual Drawing Lessons

- 8:30 a.m.(T/Th) -- [Drawing with Toddlers](#), a short drawing lesson from E. B. Goodale (*Under the Lilacs*) (Instagram Live @ebgoodale)
- 10:00 a.m. -- [Lunchtime Doodles](#), a ~30 min. art lesson with Mo Willems (*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*) (YouTube @The Kennedy Center)
- 10:00 a.m. -- [Drawing lessons with Wendy Macnaughton](#) (NYT bestselling illustrator) (Instagram Live @wendymac)
- 11:00 a.m. -- [Draw Every Day with JJK](#), a ~20 min. drawing lesson with Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Lunch Lady graphic novel series) (YouTube @ Jarrett J. Krosoczka—author & illustrator)

Music Classes & Performances

- 6:00 a.m. -- [Music classes from Jam with Jamie](#) (also uploaded for later viewing)
- 8:00 a.m. -- [Daily music, movement, yoga classes, and more for pre-K/young kids from Union City Play in New York City](#)
- 11:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. -- [Stars in the House](#), a 60 min. performance and chat by various Broadway actors and other performers to raise money for out-of-work entertainers (YouTube @The Actors Fund)
- 4:30 p.m. -- [Every night a new recording from The Metropolitan Opera is available to stream](#)

- Various -- [A full list of live concerts streaming, varying from pop stars to operas](#) (curated by NPR)

Other Fun Stuff

- 2:00 p.m. (T/Th) -- [Virtual tour of Charlie's Acres, a 30 min. tour of a 140-animal farm](#) (Facebook Live)
- 3:00 p.m. -- [Virtual cooking class with Michael Volpett](#) (Facebook Live)

Anytime

Getting Online

- [Find free and low-cost internet and computers in your area](#) (Everyone On, PCs for People)

Educational Activities & Lesson Plans

- [Scholastic Learn at Home: 20 days of education activities, broken up into four grade levels](#)
- [Amazing Educational Resources, a HUGE spreadsheet of tools/programs/services that usually cost money but are being offered for free, with info on subject and grade level](#) (crowdsourced)
- [Encantos Learning Hub](#) (pre-K-1 resources available in English and Spanish)
- [Learn@Home, educational YouTube channels curated by age group](#) (YouTube)
- [Sesame Street has videos, games, and activities for younger kids](#) (sesamo.com in Spanish)
- [Tinkergarten has a week's worth of outdoor education DIY activities](#) (sign up for the email newsletter on Tinkergarten's website)
- [Newsicle, a daily news trivia game put on by the folks behind XYZA: News for Kids](#)

- News-o-Matic suspends fees for daily news stories for kids K–8 (News-o-Matic app)
- Complexly, a series of video series on educational topics ranging from literature to biochemistry (YouTube)
- Story Pirates University, writing video lessons from the Story Pirates podcast team (YouTube)
- Two Whats and a Wow!, a daily science-based game show from the Wow in the World podcast team, including activity challenges (NPR)
- GoNoodle Good Energy at Home, entertaining videos and educational at-home activities that encourage movement

Arts, Film, and Music Lessons & Resources

- Rebel Girls providing 90+ writing/drawing/DIY prompts (sign up via email)
- Digital curriculum and lessons available to go along with The Representation Project's films (lessons are free; films are available to rent or buy on streaming platforms)
- Keep Kids Smart with ART, art lesson plans run through the Boca Raton Museum
- CircleTime classes for age 0–6 including yoga, storytime, cooking, and music (registration required)
- Daily cartooning lessons from MazeToon's Joe Wos (YouTube @HowtoToon)
- A downloadable coloring book from illustrator Liz Climo (PDF)
- Kanopy, a movie streaming service available with a library card
- Interactive pretend play challenges and activity sheets from the Bay Area Children's Theater Creativity Corner (YouTube)
- Quarantine Art Club, a daily drawing challenge from illustrator Carson Ellis (*Du Iz Tak?*) (Instagram @carsonellis)
- Stop Motion Kids Camp enrollment from artist Trisha Zemp is being offered for free (redeem enrollment code by sharing one of Zemp's posts on Instagram @trishazemp)
- Drawing and comic-creating prompts from Jarrett Lerner (*Enginerds*)
- Printable coloring pages from Latinx artists from Veoleo (donations encouraged)
- Printable coloring pages featuring Latinx trailblazers from Con Todo Press
- Educational music videos from Laurie Berkner (YouTube)

Audiobooks & Virtual Storytime

- [Audible Stories](#), an extensive streaming library of children's and young adult audiobooks (Amazon Audible)
- [Authors read their books aloud](#) (curated on [Kate Messner's website](#)) (YouTube)
- [#OperationStorytime](#), a partnership with picture book authors and Romper to read their stories aloud (posted and curated on Twitter [@romper](#), updated regularly)

Virtual Tours

- [Virtual tour of American National Parks](#) (Google Arts & Culture)
- [Virtual tour of the deYoung Art Museum in San Francisco](#) (Google Arts & Culture)
- [Virtual museums, classes, and exhibits in San Francisco](#) (curated by Red Tricycle)
- [Virtual museums, classes, and exhibits in Seattle](#) (curated by Red Tricycle)
- [Virtual museums, classes, and exhibits in San Diego](#) (curated by Red Tricycle)
- [Virtual museums, classes, and exhibits in Chicago](#) (curated by Red Tricycle)
- [Virtual tour of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Virtual tour of the Louvre museum in Paris, France](#)
- [Virtual tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York](#)
- [Virtual tour of the Boston Children's Museum](#) (Google Earth)
- [Virtual tour of the Great Wall of China](#)
- [Virtual tour of Mars from pictures from NASA's Curiosity rover](#) (Google)
- [Virtual "field trips" to zoos, dairies, symphonies, and operas](#) (curated by Red Tricycle)

Fun & Games

- [Family Time Machine](#), ideas for activities for the whole family, available in Spanish
- [Virtual rides on Disney attractions](#) (YouTube, curated on PopSugar)
- [Virtual "Dungeons & Dragons" trial adventure from Wizards of the Coast](#) (Roll20)

- Mobile and console games, including Alto's Adventure and The Sims 4, available for free or on sale (curated by The Verge)
- Amazon's original kids' series will be available for free (with or without a Prime account) (Amazon Video)
- StoryToys makes its educational preschool apps free to download