

Waukesha County Children with Special Needs COVID-19 Resource Newsletter – Issue #4

Hello! To our fantastic Waukesha County Children's Long Term Support Waiver families!

During this trying time of uncertainty for many children and families, the Children with Special Needs Unit is pleased to provide you with additional resources on a variety of topics over the next few weeks. We know that for many families, our worlds have been turned upside down and our daily routines have been impacted greatly. We hope that you find a few of these resources helpful, as we all walk through uncharted territories.

Notes from the Children with Special Needs Programs:

- Please reach out to your Waukesha County Service Coordinator with any resources or increased support that you need at this time.
- Service Coordinators are continuing to work remotely. Please remember, they are calling you via cell phones that have blocked or restricted numbers. Therefore, it could show up as "Unknown caller" or "Restricted". Please check your voicemails, as it is likely that you have been left a voicemail message.

Preparing for Becoming an Adult:

- What's After High School? Training for families April 21st 10-11am. See attachment.

School at Home Resources:

- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Google Classroom](#) - Google's free-to-schools organization platform makes it easy for students to keep all their schoolwork in one place -- but it invites privacy and safety risks that parents should keep an eye on.
- [Junior Library Guild](#) is providing their eBooks free of charge currently. You may also want to check with your local library to see what online resources they have available. (Elementary Username: JLGELM, Password: JLGFREE; Middle/High School Username: JLGMID, Password: JLGFREE)
- [Sumdog](#) is an adaptive learning platform with multiplayer games. It is now free to set up a family account and compete with your kids or other users in math, spelling, and reading. There is also an option called the House, which can be used as an incentive or reward for reaching goals. You can close the House during learning time and open it as a reward.
- [Arts and Culture on Google](#) is a way to learn something new each day! The site includes features such as virtual tours of museums, architecture around the world, and deeper investigations into the works and lives of artists. This could be a great way to begin each

academic day. If you have multiple kids at home, they could take turns picking what to explore.

- You may already be familiar with TED Talks. [TEDEd](#) is their education platform which allows you to create a parent account. If you want to follow a lesson plan you can choose that option, or you can just click around and find topics of interest. You'll find a huge selection of short engaging videos on a plethora of topics from, "A Day in the Life of a Roman Soldier" to, "Vultures: The Acid-Puking, Plague Busting Heroes of the Ecosystem."
- The Kids & Family section of [Tune In Podcasts](#) offers podcasts such as *But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids*, a show led by children who ask questions and adults who help them find answers. They ask and answer inquiries such as "Why Do People Have Nightmares?", "Why Are Some Words Bad?", and the question for the ages, "Do Animals Get Married?"
- [Common Sense Media](#) has been the leading source of media recommendations and advice for families since 2003. Here you can find thousands of age-based reviews on movies, TV shows, books, apps, and games. They have put together a page of resources for families to use during the Coronavirus pandemic on all academic subject matters and more. This company has resources in Spanish as well.

Virtual Activities:

- Multiple public libraries in the area are expanding their online resources. These libraries have Facebook Live story times:
 - Waukesha Public Library: Rhythm & Rhymes with Miss Kelli Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings <https://www.facebook.com/WaukeshaPublicLibrary>
 - Muskego Public Library: live story times and social distancing ideas <https://www.facebook.com/muskegopubliclibrary>
 - Pauline Haass Public Library: multiple virtual activities. Check their schedule for details. <https://phplonline.org/>
- Virtual Fieldtrips: <https://www.weareteachers.com/best-virtual-field-trips/>
 - Zoos
 - Aquariums
 - Natural Parks
- Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra- Age appropriate music lessons https://www.mso.org/education/concerts_for_schools/general_resources/ Concerts and booklets on different music

Guidance for Children:

- Coronavirus printable- The Autism Educator IE <https://littlepuddins.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Corona-Virus-Free-Printable-Updated-2-The-Autism-Educator-.pdf> Booklet that explains COVID-19 to kids who are on the spectrum. Explains what will happen at home and what changes are happening, but reassures them that their routine will return to normal soon enough.

- How to approach the topic. <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html> Tips on including them in the conversation.

Parent Help:

- [How do you manage fighting kids during a lockdown? We asked the experts](#)
- [Family Lockdown Guide: How to emotionally prepare for coronavirus quarantine](#)

Mindfulness:

- [Free Resources from Calm for Parents and Children](#)
- Deep Breathing Techniques to do a multiple times during the day. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAdwqHI7sac>

Safer At Home:

- [WI Department of Children and Families Safer At Home Resources](#)

****NEW** Copies of these Newsletters can be found on the County's Webpage at:** <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/HealthAndHumanServices/child-and-family-services/>

Stay current with the response by Waukesha County to COVID-19 at: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/COVID19>

If you have additional needs during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to your assigned Service Coordinator. If you do not have an assigned service coordinator – you can reach out to Erin Zellmer: ezellmer@waukeshacounty.gov

We are safer at home. Stay well.