

Frederick County Public Schools



General Instructional Suggestions for Parents

What parents can do if schools are closed due to:

- ◆ weather conditions
- ◆ health emergencies
- ◆ state or national emergencies
- or
- ◆ if your child has an extended illness

Reading

Have your child read– or read to your child– every day for at least an hour. Take time to have your child talk or write about what is being read. This would be a great opportunity to start reading a novel together that you and your child can talk about. Pick a theme that holds interest for your child—teachers can help suggest titles on a variety of themes or topics at appropriate levels for you and your child to read together.

Math

Practice math skills or mathematical concepts being learned daily. Elementary students can always use additional practice with basic facts, creating simple word problems and solving them, or work with measuring items, telling time, counting money, etc. Older students can review work in notebooks and practice by creating scenarios/ problems similar to ones they know how to solve and then completing them.

Writing

Students should write every day. Younger students can label things, make lists, or write about what they do each day in a journal. Spelling is not as important as getting thoughts on the page. Older students can keep journals about what they read or about their days, and can critique stories, TV shows, or video games. They can compare strengths and weaknesses of different activities, games, etc. Organizing for writing is important—help students plan what they'd like to write about, and then create a graphic organizer or outline for the writing first, and use that as the basis for expanding their thoughts in paragraph form.

Social Studies

Watch the news and identify locations of current events. Discuss how current events are linked to other events in history and possible future connections or impact. Write a summary of what is happening in the world at the local, state, federal and international levels.

Science

Explore the environment in and around the house. Classify or identify plants, insects, or animals you find, and research them to learn more about them. Have students create hypotheses about weather, natural events they witness, or about why things work. Design simple experiments together and test them to come to a conclusion. Write about the process.

Critical Thinking Skills

Play Sudoku, Yahtzee, crossword puzzles, Jumble puzzles, or cards to encourage logical thinking, strategy, and planning ahead, as well as to practice math or reading skills.

Play board games that involve strategic thinking, like Othello, Monopoly, or Scrabble.

Physical Activity

Encourage activity. If the weather is nice, provide opportunities for children to be outside, while limiting social interaction. Brisk walks or bike rides around the neighborhood, a hike, or gardening can provide a meaningful break in the day and can reinvigorate the brain.

Visual and Fine Arts

Turn on the music! Share favorite musical styles with your child, and introduce them to some new ones. Compare compositions or composers from one period to another. Learn dances to different styles of music.

Draw, paint, sculpt, build, craft, or create! Study different artists and/ or styles and create an imitation together. Have an exhibition of family artwork, creating placards and artist biographies to go in the gallery.

General Suggestions

Create a schedule for the day. Set specific times for specific activities such as reading time, game time, lunch, TV (limited), etc. Stick to the schedule.

TURN OFF THE TV! Limit the number of hours that your child spends in front of the television each day and monitor the type of programming being watched. Also limit the amount of time spent playing video games.