

# the new normal



## A Guide to Family Life at Home Homeschooling •

- **Boredom Busters**
  - **Movie Nights** •

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Dear Readers.

#### Homeschooling **Boredom Busters** 3 **Movie Nights** 21

We hope you're feeling well and enjoying quality time with your family. Our first issue of The New Normal offers tips on handling homeschool, ideas for staving off boredom, and a list of age-appropriate films for movie night (or morning, or afternoon...). We hope you've sent in a photo of your kids living their best lives in quarantine for our Cabin Fever Candids photo gallery. We can't wait to see those smiling faces.

Stay happy, stay healthy, and stay sane!

Jeanning Centron

Editor siparent.com



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# Information is healthy. Fear is not.



#### What do I say to my kids?

Chances are your kids have a lot of questions about the coronavirus. And if they don't, that doesn't mean they're not thinking about it. Having an honest talk with your kids can help. Use terms they understand, answer their questions directly, and let them know what they can do to help.

Get them involved. Help them wash their hands, toys, even throw their plushies in the laundry. Making sure your kids understand and follow the same hygiene guidelines that you do will help keep us all safe.

Northwell Health is built for situations just like this and we'll continue to share facts and tips in the days to come. Because knowledge is contagious too.

Get the facts at siuh.northwell.edu

Cohen Children's Medical Center Northwell Health\*



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Thomas Sliger, age 3, "helping" his sister Kayla Sliger, age 6, with homework

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# 10 Ways To Make It Easier On Everyone

Welcome to 2020: homework is the new classwork, outside is the new inside, and Mom is the new substitute teacher. It's a confusing time for everyone, and homeschooling your kids for the first time isn't making it any easier. If you need a little help getting this new homework/classwork mashup into gear, consider the following tips to ease the transition.

**Designate a workspace.** Whether it's a bedroom desk or the kitchen table, the area should be clean and quiet. Clear away anything not related to homework and have all the necessary materials nearby.

*Limit distractions.* Shut the TV and put away all phones, games, and electronics. Try to limit noise and, if possible, separate siblings. Headphones are a must.

*Pick the right time—and stick to it*. If you're child is not required to be logged in at a specific time, figure out when he is likely to be the most focused. He should be completing work at this same time every day.

*Use the teacher's way.* We know, we know, it's tempting. You learned it a different way when you were in school and it's *soooo* much easier to explain that way. But if you deviate from the method your child learned in class you will probably confuse her further.

**Plan ahead.** Your child won't gain anything from burning the midnight oil when a report is due the next day. Purchase a large calendar to organize assignments, taking care to hang it in a spot that is visible to all family members. Homeschool or not, due dates are due dates.

*Take breaks.* Grade school children will generally stay focused for only a brief period of time, as little as just 15 minutes. Let your child work in increments, allowing for a short break to relax in between assignments. Just be sure to restrict the use of electronics during breaks.

**Praise a job well done.** When you notice your child working hard, let her know you are proud of her. A little verbal praise can go a long way in boosting confidence and selfesteem. If you choose to reward her extra effort with a treat, keep it simple so as not to confuse the motivation.

*Be helpful—but not too helpful.* Stay close by and offer help if needed, but don't

do the work for him. Answer questions with other questions, and encourage your child to come to his own conclusions.

**Talk to the teacher.** If you feel that your child is overloaded with work or that the assignments are simply too lengthy or difficult, don't be afraid to speak with the teacher. Perhaps you can come up with a solution together, or discover whether there is a deeper issue at hand. Teachers are more accessible now than ever.

*Stay healthy.* Good eating habits, an early bedtime, and regular exercise are all key components in keeping your child as productive and focused throughout the day as possible. You should continue to set an alarm to wake up at the same time every day (at least on weekdays), and kids should be spending time outside in the backyard or on nature walks with parents.

*By Jeannine Cintron, a Staten Island mom of two who hopes to master the art of homework by the time the kids are done with college.* 

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\*See monthly income guidelines below.

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#### 2020 Child Health Plus Income Levels

Family Contributions	Monthly Income by Family Size**								Each Additional
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Person, Add:
FREE Insurance	\$1,701	\$2,298	\$2,895	\$3,493	\$4,090	\$4,687	\$5,285	\$5,882	\$598
<b>\$9 Per Child Per Month</b> (Maximum of \$27 per family)	\$2,361	\$3,190	\$4,019	\$4,847	\$5,676	\$6,505	\$7,334	\$8,163	\$829
<b>\$15 Per Child Per Month</b> (Maximum of \$45 per family)	\$2,659	\$3,592	\$4,525	\$5,459	\$6,392	\$7,325	\$8,259	\$9,192	\$934
<b>\$30 Per Child Per Month</b> (Maximum of \$90 per family)	\$3,190	\$4,310	\$5,430	\$6,550	\$7,670	\$8,790	\$9,910	\$11,030	\$1,120
<b>\$45 Per Child Per Month</b> (Maximum of \$135 per family)	\$3,722	\$5,029	\$6,335	\$7,642	\$8,949	\$10,255	\$11,562	\$12,869	\$1,307
<b>\$60 Per Child Per Month</b> (Maximum of \$180 per family)	\$4,254	\$5,747	\$7,240	\$8,734	\$10,227	\$11,720	\$13,214	\$14,707	\$1,494
Full Premium Per Child Per Month	Over \$4,254	Over \$5,747	Over \$7,240	Over \$8,734	Over \$10,227	Over \$11,720	Over \$13,214	Over \$14,707	Ove \$1,49



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To learn more about applying for health insurance, including Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Essential Plan, and Qualified Health Plans through NY State of Health, The Official Health Plan Marketplace, visit www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov or call 1-855-355-5777.



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# 35 unique ways to keep your little ones busy

You expect to be stricken with <u>cabin fever</u> during snowstorms, thunderstorms, maybe even power outages. But no one expects to be homebound for a global pandemic. Yet, here we are.

If your kids are on their tenth straight hour of screen time and you're starting to feel a little bad about it, try some of these family-friendly activities to keep the boredom blues at bay.



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1. Build the ultimate blanket fort.

2. Whip up some healthy

snacks together.

3. Challenge yourself with a 3D puzzle race.

4. Movie time: hot

chocolate + popcorn. Dim the lights!

5. Create your own scavenger hunt.

Joseph, age 9, with sisters Lillia, age 6, and Stella age 3 in their fort blanket

6. Get creative with colored tape: floor maze, racetracks, hopscotch, limbo, endless

possibilities!

7. Play simple card games like Go Fish and Rummy or try some new ones out.

8. Go on a nature walk.
Track what you find.
9. Throw an indoor
"beach" party with beach towels, sand pails, bathing

suits, etc.

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10. Silly storytelling; take turns making up funny stories.

11. Host a coloring marathon. Print out coloring sheets for free online.

12. Grab the mani/pedi kit and have a spa day.

13. Host an indoor picnic; invite the dolls and other stuffed animals. Amira Jahaj, age 8, enjoying her spa mask

14. Dress up time! Host a fashion show. Make it even more fun by capturing it on video.

15. Write letters to friends, family,

the President, anyone!

16. Try yoga.

17. Do some kid-friendly

indoor or outdoor planting.

18. Make your own book. Take pictures around the house or in your backyard, print them aptions.

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Cabin Fever CANDIDS Win a

<u>win a</u> <u>\$300</u> Amazon Card

out, then write captions.

James, age 4

2, having fun dressing up

Olivia, age

19. Have a little fun with all those delivery boxes.

20. <u>Make puppets</u> out of old socks and have a puppet show.

21. Host a **board game** marathon.

22. Make a big pot of Mila Y soup together. Kids can hangin help toss ingredients in the pot!

Mila Yannaco, age 6, hanging with her socket puppet Isabella

23. Host a tea or birthday party. All the stuffed animals are invited!

24. Start or join a dance party. Let the little

ones pick the tunes.

25. Create an indoor obstacle course.

Juliana, age 9, and Gabriella, age 5, hosting a party 26. Put on a play. Have kids act out scenes from their favor-

Cabin Fever

CONTE

ite movies or TV shows.

27. Go camping indoors! Set up a tent in your living room.

Stovetop s'mores, anyone?

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28. Reverse school day: have your kids be the teacher and teach the "class" what they are learning in school.

29. Make a "train" using kitchen table chairs. Kids can take turns playing conductor.

30. Same concept as #29, but make a <u>roller</u>

coaster instead. Weeee!

Delilah, age 13, calling it a "fortnite" LOL

Enjoying the great indoors are Penelope, age 6, & Athena, age 7

31. Host a marathon video game battle.

32. Start a **<u>reading marathon</u>**.

33. Go on a

virtual field trip.

34. Conduct some science

experiments.

35. Check out a

virtual concert.



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# **Movie Night**



# Movies For Kids You Can Stream Now

There's never been a better time to cozy up with the family on the couch and settle in for a good movie. These movies come highly recommended by Common Sense Media, an organization trusted by parents and educators for objective ratings on movies, TV shows, books, and more.

# **Movie Night**



# The Peanuts Movie age 4+ • 2015

A nostalgic take on the characters from the comic.

#### Shaun the Sheep Movie

age 5+ • 2015 A sweet little adventure with positive messages about teamwork and friendship.

#### AGES 4-6

### Inside Out

age 6+ • 2015 A heartfelt story from Pixar about growing up and learning to handle your emotions.

#### **Storks**

age 6+ • 2016 A note for parents that time with their children is brief, sweet, and to be cherished.

REAM

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MOVIES

#### Ferdinand

age 6+ • 2017 A bull prefers flowers and friendship to aggression and fighting.

# **Movie Night**



**The Good Dinosaur** age 7+ • 2015 An animated prehistoric saga that melds Finding

Nemo and E.T.

#### The Book of Life

age 7+ • 2014 An original animated film that takes viewers to the underworld and back.

#### AGES 7-9

#### *Hey Arnold!: The Jungle Movie* age 7+ • 2017 A continuation of the story from

the '90s series.

#### Zootopia

age 8+ • 2016 A film set in a world of talking animals living in peace together.

#### The Great Gilly Hopkins

age 9+ • 2016 An unfriendly foster kid finally opens up to others.

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