



## Supporting Families with Children at Home

### Educational Games and Ideas for at Home | BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

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DATE: March 19, 2020

Dear Black Gold Families,

Black Gold School Division is working to provide educational resources for students who are at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your children's teachers will connect with you to share details as they become available.

As we continue to work with Alberta Education and the provincial health authority and keep you informed about program plans there are a few additional ways you can help us support your children at home:

- Model calmness about the COVID-19 and limit news exposure to help decrease anxiety and stress.
- Your family's health, and the safety of our school community is our first priority. Focus first on making sure your children feel safe and establishing a sense of routine at home.
- Accept that school/learning is going to be different at this point in time. Mitigate expectations on yourself, teachers, students and families.
- There is no expectation that you will be recreating school in your house.
- This is your chance to help your children see learning as something that happens ALL DAY LONG, in everything we do. Not just in textbooks and classrooms. There are ENDLESS learning possibilities during this time. Children and teens can learn all day, every day, while they do different activities from home.
- Spend time away from the television and other screens, stay connected with loved ones and get fresh air.

As you wait to hear from us, in the interim, we have put together some activities and websites for you and your children so they can continue to work on their literacy and numeracy skills. These are supplemental resources. These are not mandatory activities.

We know you have questions in regards to final marks and diploma exams. Those decisions will be made by the Ministry of Education. Black Gold will share all the information as it becomes available. Be assured that our teachers are committed to making sure all Black Gold students will have the opportunity to meet the learning outcomes in their grade level and advance in their educational learning.

Please continue to look after yourself and your family, and in the meantime, if you have any health-related questions, visit the province's website [alberta.ca](http://alberta.ca) for information. Black Gold School Division will communicate with you again once we have a detailed plan for learning.

– Sincerest Regards, Black Gold School Division

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**Dice Games to Play at Home to support Math**

1st Grade: [Fill the Stairs](#)

2nd Grade: [Save Twenty](#)

3rd Grade: [Blockout](#)

4th Grade: [Blockout \(Damult Dice Variation\)](#), or just [Damult Dice](#)

5th Grade and up: [Damult Dice Division Allplay](#); [Horseshoe](#)

**Alphabet through photos K - 3**

Give your child a camera or paper to list finds!

Ask them to take pictures/find of objects that range from A to Z.

They can collect images of an Ant, Apple, Biscuits, Cat, and so on.

**Sequencing sentences - K - 6**

Ask your child to think of an event. Whatever the occasion, the child should be able to remember what has happened.

Let them describe the event in three sentences. You will write them down on the index cards or sticky notes. Attach or stick them on the refrigerator in a random order.

Now, ask your child to put each sentence strip in order – from the beginning, middle to the end.

Have your child read aloud to confirm that the sequencing is correct.

**EPSB Together APP** - this is a free app that helps you support your child’s learning outside of the classroom. You can explore a range of activities that connect what your child has learned in school to everyday skills.

The EPSB Together App was developed by Edmonton Public Schools and can be found in the the [Apple App store](#), [Google Play](#) or at [epsbtogether.ca](#)

**Reading** - Read everyday (to your kids, with your kids, listen to them read), play (board games, card games, basketball in the driveway, lego), write (letters, journal, etc), spend time away from the television, stay connected with loved ones, get fresh air and deepen your parent-child bond.

**Play** - Children learn from play. Whether it is a board game (they can learn to read the cards, etc), card games (they will develop math skills), or basketball in the driveway (physical activity is important), getting children playing will help reduce their stress.

**Write** - this is a great time for students to write letters to relatives or keep a journal.

[Switcheroo Zoo](#) - watch, listen, and play games to learn all about amazing animals!

[National Geographic for Kids](#) - learn all about geography and fascinating animals!

[Into the Book](#) - go “into the book” to play games that practice reading strategies?

[Seussville](#) - Read, games, and hang out with Dr. Seuss and his friends!



## Supporting Families with Children at Home Educational Games and Ideas for at Home

[ABC Ya!](#) - Practice math and reading skills all while playing fun games!

[Fun Brain](#) - play games while practicing math and reading skills!

[PBS Kids](#) - students can hang out with their favourite characters all while learning

[Star Fall](#) - practice phonics skills with these read-along stories!

[Storyline Online](#) - favourite stories read out loud by movie stars

[Highlights Kids](#) - read, play games, and conduct cool science experiments

[Leader in Me COVID 19 Response Centre: Resources for Families](#) - includes family-friendly and bite-sized videos of principle/habit lessons, 7habits cartoon series, 7habits mini activities, and student speeches from the student leadership speech contest.

**Reading** - Read aloud to your children, young and old. If you don't have time to read, audiobooks are great. Many libraries have online sign outs for audiobooks.

**Podcasts** - there are a large number of free podcasts for all ages. For younger children consider 'Wow! In the world'. Most podcasts are 20-30 minutes.

**Educational Shows and Documentaries** - there is lots to learn from watching these on TV. Discover Kids is free through most providers during the pandemic.

**Spend time outside** - being outside is always a great option. If you are self-isolating or quarantined, children can still play outside as long as they maintain their isolation/quarantine.

### French Immersion Supports

[French for Life](#) - games for developing french vocabulary and skills

[French Language games](#) - games for letters, numbers, reading and math

[Recreomath](#) has games to help students understand concepts in math.