

New York State Education Department Office of P-12 Education



**Message from the Director, Jason Breslin**

As we navigate through these unprecedented times, I want to first and foremost thank all educators for continuing to provide instruction to the students of New York. Our earliest learners

Scholastic, Inc. has promised four weeks of engaging at-home learning, free to teachers and families. The activities for Pre-K and Kindergarten have been [posted online](#), adroitly combining literacy and STEM. For example, Day One features rabbits--reading about them, watching a video about their habits, and then using masking tape on the floor to measure off how far different animals (and 4- or 5-year-olds!) can jump.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) combined forces to build an [online library of read-alouds](#) by well-known actors. It's won awards from parent and library groups – and an Emmy. For example, Sean Astin does the honors for *A Bad Case of Stripes* while Allison Janney presents *Carla's Sandwich*.

### **Additional Resources for At-Home Learning**

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- [Fun and Learning for Parents and Children: An Activities Handbook](#) contains fun

## And don't forget e-books from the public library.

Buildings may be closed, and story hours cancelled, but anyone with a library card and an electronic device can borrow e-books, including thousands of children's titles. For more information, visit the website of the public library in your neighborhood!

### Talking with Children About the Coronavirus

News of the coronavirus COVID-19 is everywhere. Having children's lives change drastically can provide uncertainty. With the closing of schools and early childhood programs, it is important to talk with your child frequently about what is going on and share information that is appropriate for the age of the child. The [Children's Mind Institute](#) provides the following tips for talking to children about the COVID-19:

- **Don't be afraid to discuss the coronavirus.**
- **Ask your child** to tell you anything they may have heard about the coronavirus, and how they feel. Let them ask you questions.
- **If** you notice that you are feeling anxious, take some time to calm down before trying to have a conversation or answer your child's questions.
- **Be reassuring.** Talk with your child about what you are doing to take safety precautions and model ways they can take precautions; for example, teach them proper handwashing.
- **Develop** a routine at home.
- **Talk** about their feelings and acknowledge them.

### Understanding the Value of Play

NYSED OEL is excited to share the release of the latest [Developmentally](#)



[The Developmentally Appropriate Practice Briefs](#) are a series of briefs that address curriculum, classroom environment, instruction, interactions, assessment, family engagement and behavior in classrooms. This series of briefs aims to support administrators and teachers in making decisions that will lead to higher quality early childhood programs with positive outcomes for children.



