Tips for Success

Communication: Communication with families is essential during emergency closures. Survey your families at the beginning of the year to find out their personal communication preference. Pick one or two ways to provide communication with families based on feedback. You might send a weekly newsletter via email or offer a classroom webpage. You might also consider conducting regular phone calls with families to check in.

Flexibility and Time: Four-year-old children do not have a long attention span and screen-time should be limited to no more than one hour per day in large group instruction and no more than thirty additional minutes for small and individual instruction. Try to keep your virtual learning sessions short and be flexible with planned activities. Pay attention for cues of students becoming disengaged.

Learning Kits: Prepare individual learning kits for students' use during school closures. Kits should include consumable items such as crayons, glue sticks, pencils, etc. along with non-consumable items such as books, file folder games, name card with picture, etc.

Lesson Plans and Schedule: At the beginning of the year, prepare several weeks of lesson plans in the event of a closure. Consider adding activities that families may complete with their child using materials from around the house. Also, develop a weekly schedule highlighting the activities and times for each day along with the materials needed. Implementing a weekly schedule will support establishing a regular routine for students.

Teaching Environment: When setting up a virtual learning environment at home, consider identifying a specific area that provides a good source of natural light and ensure the area is clean, neat, and orderly. Upload a photo of your classroom to use as your virtual background.

Preparation: Have all the materials you will need for your virtual lesson ready when you begin your meeting so that the students are not waiting, and the lesson will flow more smoothly. Also, consider hosting a meeting with your friends or co-workers to practice before your first live session with students.

Engagement: Plan activities that will be interactive for the students and include various levels of engagement. Ask open-ended questions and engage in conversations with the students. Strive to provide positive reinforcement just as you would in a traditional classroom setting. Follow student interests when planning activities.

Journaling: Have parents document activities at home in a journal. They may share student strengths and challenges while also offering photos of the activity. These photos and accomplishments may be shared during virtual meetings by the student or teacher.

Large Group:
- Morning meeting is a great way for students to see each other and have time to chat which helps build relationships and a sense of community.
- Provide music with movement opportunities.
- Include a morning message and do other activities such as checking the weather, reading a story, etc.
- Make it interactive. Use fingerplays, action songs, virtual show and share, etc.
- Consider having an afternoon closing session to allow kids to share their favorite thing they did during the day.

Small Groups:
- Group children together based on need, interest, and ability level.
- Plan activities for each group based on needs.
- Remember to make it fun and give students a chance to share.
- Use this time to collect assessment data.

Individualized Support
- Plan one-on-one calls with students and families.
- Have individual conversations and provide targeted support with individual students as needed.

At-Home Activities
- Provide weekly activity schedules with things to do daily.
- Use materials that are typically available in homes or that you have provided in take home learning packets.
- Provide step-by-step easy to follow directions.
- Keep activities simple and with easy clean-up.

Tips for Success

Georgia's Pre-K Program

Resources for Support

Georgia's Pre-K at Home: https://www.decal.ga.gov/PreK/WelcomeToGAPreKAtHome.aspx

What I've Learned about Teaching Preschool Virtually: https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-learning-for-preschool-students/

Tips for Distance Learning: https://gpb.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tips-for-distance-learning-with-pbs-learningmedia/virtual-professional-learning-series-video-gallery/

7 Tips for Managing Distance Learning in Preschool: https://www.edutopia.org/article/7-tips-managing-distance-learning-preschool

How to Teach Distance Learning Preschool: https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2020/05/distance-learning-preschool.html

The Importance of Play During Distance Learning: https://www.edutopia.org/article/emphasizing-importance-play-during-distance-learning

10 Things Every Parent Should Know about Play: https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/10-things-every-parent-play

Prop Boxes as Mini Learning Centers at Home: https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/10-prop-box-ideas-mini-learning-centers-home

At Home Morning Meetings: https://consciousdiscipline.s3.amazonaws.com/Free-Resources/Printable-Posters-Tools-Activities/FREE-Printable-At-Home-Morning-Meetings.pdf

Storybooks Brought to Life: https://www.vooks.com/

Georgia Public Broadcasting Georgia Field Trips: https://gpb.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/virtual-field-trips/#.XyMGmDios2w

We are Teachers: Best Virtual Field Trips: https://www.weareteachers.com/best-virtual-field-trips/

Google Arts and Culture: https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en

San Diego Zoo Webcams: https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams

Monterey Bay Aquarium Webcams: https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams

Planning Educational Activities for Children (PEACH): https://peach.decal.ga.gov/app/

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