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## TCW Weekly Resources Letter April 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

First, we sincerely hope that you are all healthy and hanging in there as much as possible as these (long) weeks start to add up for all of us. For some of us at TCW, Covid-19 has already hit close to home, and while I'm excited to share the new fun and creative ideas curated by teachers, activities we hope will lead to engagement and discovery, everyone's health and well-being remains paramount. Next, we miss all of your children terribly, along with; the normalcy of school, our everyday connections with you, and the myriad number of things that cannot be replaced remotely, no matter how many phone calls, emails, face-time sessions, or Google Meet sessions.

In this newsletter blurb I'd like to share a summary of the context for and highlights of the work our 'virtual community' of educators, specialists, and administrators, have been engaged in over the past two and a half weeks. While we've been thrust into this 'brave new world', TCW teachers don't have access to devices, training, or for many, the skill set to engage in virtual learning. With one laptop per classroom team, teachers are working on a variety of devices, if they have one. Digital learning is, to varying degrees, part of the K-12 curriculum, with IT specialists, training, support, and experience. Alternately, translating a philosophy that revolves around play-based and hands-on learning to one of 'remote learning' has been a big learning curve for the TCW staff. Ilana and I are working regularly with the IT leaders in the district, and surveys have been sent to families and staff, so we can assure that everyone has access before more layers are rolled out. I'm so impressed by how teachers are 'leaning into' building these new tech skills, so they can connect with and support all children.

As we grapple with the best ways to engage preschoolers remotely, Ilana and I have been meeting daily, and all staff have been engaged in a variety of regular Google Meet meetings, some daily, some weekly; administrative council meetings, lead teacher meetings (including Kathy D.), classroom team meetings, Sped leaders and specialists meetings, etc. As I'm sure many of you may be experiencing, if you are working from home, these platforms are not ideal or efficient, but we now have a good framework in place. With considerable deliberation, our approach has been to be careful, thoughtful, and equitable, as well as slow and steady, so as to not overwhelm families who are juggling a great deal in these very uncertain times. As we head into next week, our plan is to "pilot" some new layers of virtual connection namely videos recorded by TCW staff, as well as a Google Meet session. Stay tuned

for more info! We hope the enrichment activities and ideas, and personal emails have been helpful and engaging, and we appreciate your patience as we develop the layers needed to connect in more multidimensional ways.  
Respectfully and Hopefully.....Be Well,  
Katy & the TCW Staff

A Social Story a TCW Mom shared that may be helpful for your kiddos:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/f70e6a77201/d386fbe0-5cd3-4064-a27d-89915b8f062d.pdf>

Some timely prose:

Good Morning.  
Lead with gratitude.  
The air in your lungs, the sky above you.  
Proceed from there.

Good night.  
Curl up with gratitude.  
For the ground beneath you, your beating heart.  
Proceed from there.

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### ARMADILLO CLASS

Hi Armadillo Families,  
We hope you find these suggestions helpful and fun!  
Please let your children know we are thinking of them.  
Stay safe and healthy,  
The Armadillo Team, Peggy, Carol, Shayna, and Linda

<https://www.discoveryacton.org/education/discovery-home> There are lots of fun ideas here for both indoor and outdoor activities.

Be read to by an astronaut! [https://m.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=storytime+from+space](https://m.youtube.com/results?search_query=storytime+from+space)

Sort money, beads, buttons, or even cereal in a muffin container.

If it's raining outside and your child's bike has training wheels, you can try to make the bike stationary (like in a spin class). Place a pair of adult shoes under the training wheels/the training wheels into the adult shoes. This should raise the bike just enough that the back wheel spins but the bike remains stationary.

The Armadillos really enjoy conducting surveys in the classroom with their friends about favorite foods, colors, if they have a certain type of pet etc.. If you are out and about walking in your neighborhood or exploring your backyard use a survey format to count/track what is observed. Grab a clipboard or notebook and make columns and rows enough for some counting. For example:

Circle (draw a circle) IIII

Square (draw a square) II\_

### Triangle (draw a triangle) \_\_\_\_\_ III

You can do shapes, types of cars, colors of houses, squirrels/birds/dogs, pretty much anything they see outside.

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### BUNNY CLASS

Hi Bunny Friends,

We send hugs and can't wait until we are all playing together again.

While we have these stay home days your teachers have been thinking about you and thinking of some fun activities you might want to try.

Have fun!

Adrienne, Linda, Jean, Mary, Sara, and Sandy

\* Dig in the dirt, paint with mud, weed out the gardens together, give kids a bucket and collect acorns

\* [www.Busytoddler.com](http://www.Busytoddler.com) -activities for all ages

\* Cut out simple different blue shapes ie., circle, square & triangle, etc. Cut out enough for all players to be successful. Play familiar music and periodically stop music and shout out a shape and children quickly stand on the shape that's called. Restart music, repeat. Same as musical chairs but with shapes.

\* Bubble wrap painting - - (As usual with the art projects I think of, a tarp on the floor is always helpful. If you don't have a tarp, an old tablecloth will do.) If you have any bubble wrap from packaging, tape the ends to a table, or linoleum kitchen floor. (Painters tape is best, as it's not overly sticky.) Break out the washable paints! Using hands are fun to paint on the bubble wrap.

— Since orange was the second color that we focused on in the Bunny classroom, your child can try mixing red and yellow paints together on the bubble wrap. The wrap is usually made of circles, too, so that would also fit into our "orange-paint/circle-shape week"! Depending on how drippy/thick the paint is, you might be able to hang the bubble wrap to dry on a sliding glass door to the outside. It's very pretty when the sun shines through!

\* Dress up has been a favorite in the Bunny room. Just provide the clothing and let their imaginations do the rest. Capes are fun as well. We call them "super friends" when they put one on.

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### GIRAFFE CLASS

Hi Everyone,

We hope all our Giraffes are doing well, and everyone is healthy. We miss you all very much! Here are this week's ideas to try out at your leisure. The activities we list can be repeated as much as you like. In the Giraffe room we are all about repetition. Your child may come up with their own ways to do things as well. Have fun!

Calming/ Relaxing Ideas:

- Quiet reading time. Aim for 5-10 minutes of Book time, where the kids look at books on their own or "read" to their stuffed animal. You can remind them that we do this in the giraffe room. We say, "Wash, water, books".

- "Blow the Balloon" calming breaths/song Hugh Hanley on [Circle of Friends](#) songs

on YouTube (sticky sticky bubble gum song comes first) we know this song too.

**Sensory Play:**

Shaving cream play time. Add anything you like to the shaving cream and it will make it more fun.

**Music and Movement:**

YouTube: Laurie Berkner: "The Goldfish" song

Genevieve Jerup: "Ketchup Ketchup French Fries"

Rick Goldin: "The Sit Down Stand Up Song"

**Activities to try:**

In highlighter or yellow marker, write your child's name in uppercase and lowercase letters. Practice tracing over the letters in a marker or crayon.

**Parent Tip for Transitions:** In the Giraffe class we use a visual to help with transitions, (clean up time, circle time, ending an activity etc.) Children are used to hearing and seeing the visual. When it's time to make a transition, it is helpful to give them a 5 minute warning, before you actually want them to stop and do something else.

You can make your own 5-minute hand with these simple materials:

Trace your open hand, around each finger on a blank piece of paper. Cut out your hand and write the number 5 on it. Attach to any type of handle to hold up. For example: a kitchen utensil, a stick, a ruler etc.

Wishing you all the very best! We will be in touch again soon.

Love, Jeanne, Brianna, Jackie, Margot and Carrie

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**PANDA CLASS**

Dear Panda families,

We hope you are having fun at home! Here are some things to do while your family is making dinner or on the phone. Have fun!

Missing you much,

Jenny, Tracey, Sue, Maria and Audrey

Here is a link to one of our favorite books. It's called The Animal Boogie. It's one you can listen to, sing to, and dance to! [https://youtu.be/25\\_u1GzruQM](https://youtu.be/25_u1GzruQM)

Here is a website with free printable coloring pages of Pete the Cat.

[https://www.google.com/search?](https://www.google.com/search?q=free+pete+the+cat+coloring+pages&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjR3LiCjCp0AhVAIXIEHWeaCcsQsAR6BAglEAE&biw=1304&bih=697)

[q=free+pete+the+cat+coloring+pages&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjR3LiCjCp0AhVAIXIEHWeaCcsQsAR6BAglEAE&biw=1304&bih=697](https://www.google.com/search?q=free+pete+the+cat+coloring+pages&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjR3LiCjCp0AhVAIXIEHWeaCcsQsAR6BAglEAE&biw=1304&bih=697)

Make an edible necklace. Put two snacks in separate bowls, such as cheerios, Fruit Loops or pretzels. Find some clean gimp or ribbon and cut it to the length of a necklace that will fit safely over your child's head. They can string the food in whatever order they want, or you could suggest trying a simple pattern: cheerio, pretzel, cheerio, pretzel (ABAB) or cheerio, cheerio, pretzel...(AAB, AAB). Either way, they will enjoy nibbling from what they've made.

<https://www.happity.co.uk/blog/article/toddler-happity-hacks-cheerio-necklace/>

**Make your own Sensory Shaker:** Look around for old water bottles in your recycling or any other type of plastic bottle that has a lid that can screw on securely. Fill the

bottle with a variety of materials to make some sensory/noise shakers!  
<https://peacebutnotquiet.com/exploring-sounds-kids-can-make-shakers/>

Try some ice painting!! Fill an ice cube tray with water and either add drops of food coloring or paint, a popsicle stick and freeze. You can paint on paper, bring them outside and paint the sidewalk or for some extra science fun paint on a tray/plate filled with salt and see what happens!!!

<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/painting-with-ice/>

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### TURTLE CLASS

Hello Turtles!

We know how much you all like to create art and structures so here are some ideas for you to enjoy!

Happy Creating!

Ali, Niki, Dominique, Laura and Dana

### Inside

Craft Stick People

<https://picklebums.com/craft-stick-people/>

Toilet paper marble/pom pom run

<https://tinkerlab.com/toilet-paper-roll-marble-run/>

Tin Foil Coloring: Permanent markers work great on tin foil! This is a great activity to do with a tablecloth, placemat, or newspaper underneath to protect the surface your Turtle is working on!

Printable Hidden Pictures

Hidden Pictures 4\_1.pdf

### Sensory

Ice Treasure Hunt: take a small baking dish or ice cube tray and freeze some small toys in water. Give your turtle some safe tools to try and free the toys from the ice! You can do this activity inside using a cookie sheet for a work space to catch the melting ice, or outside when the weather permits!

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TCW EIN Number

**04-6001341**

You may need this for your taxes!



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### Upcoming Events and Activities

04/15 - Financial Aid Applications Due

05/04 - Classes Resume (hopefully!)



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