9 WAYS TO ENGAGE & TEACH CHILDREN REMOTELY

Teaching children remotely could be part of the "new normal" in the months ahead. Schools are closed. Students, educators, and parents alike are having to adapt to this new world - and it means that children have to learn and educators have to teach remotely.

There are many ways both educators and parents can teach children at home. Parents can help educators by providing ways to keep their children engaged and interested in learning. In this new normal, educators and parents must collaborate. Parents are almost like teaching partners of professional educators.

COOPERATION BETWEEN EDUCATORS AND PARENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic will change our way of life in the foreseeable future. Some form of social distancing and other restrictions will probably still be imposed even after lockdowns are lifted. For instance, schools may hold smaller classes or schedules could be rotationally switched between homeschooling or *remote learning* and regular classes.

If you are an educator who teaches online, it's important to work with the parents. Similarly, parents must also keep abreast of the topics you're working on so they can support their children as they learn from home.

Parents could also supplement educational materials by helping their children do extra, interesting projects that are related to the curriculum.

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1. **Centralized location**
   If you have several students to teach remotely, you need to establish a centralized online location where you can regularly meet. You must have a common communication hub where you can make video calls. For instance, you could use Skype, Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

2. **Use online teaching resources**
   Video chats and live streams are good options but they are slightly limited in terms of being interactive and collaborative. Try teaching resources like Google Education or Blackboard for real-time collaboration.

3. **Show films, or provide films for your students to watch**
   Just like in regular classes, the occasional film can be a good option for engaging your students. You could share some educational documentaries or course-appropriate movies and ask students to submit reaction papers or discuss their opinions in class.

4. **Encourage student input**
   Critical thinking is a crucial component of learning. You can encourage student input by facilitating group discussions and asking them to give presentations. You can encourage collaborative problem-solving activities such as creating contingency plans for the school during a natural calamity such as an earthquake or tornado.

5. **Create hands-on projects**
   Depending on the subject you are teaching, you can design interactive projects that the students can do at home. For instance, if you are teaching science, electronics or programming, the _Arduino Starter Kit_ is a great way for students to get hands-on.

6. **Have some fun**
   Devise games or competitions online and in real-time. You could also organize _virtual parties_ if one of your students has a birthday or come up with weekly themes everyone has to get involved with.

7. **Provide individual tutorials**
   Some students may need special attention, especially when it comes to difficult academic subjects. You can schedule individual tutorials and provide modules for those who are having difficulty catching up.

8. **Record your class sessions**
   Some students may not be able to participate in regular live sessions, and it's also great to have these recordings on hand for your students to dip in and out of if there's

something they don't understand. Recording your class sessions can help them catch up with their lessons.

9. *Have meetings with parents*
It's great to keep in touch, especially during this uncertain time. It's important to work with parents to teach their children at home and a virtual meeting can help patch up any learning gaps.

Adapting to the new normal is challenging for students, educators, and parents. However, with the help of the internet and an array of online tools, children can still learn remotely.