



July 24, 2020

Distance Learning Parent Newsletter, Issue 11

English Learner Support Division
California Department of Education

Opening Letter

DEAR PARENTS,

The Distance Learning Parent Newsletter was published weekly during the transition to distance learning. Starting with the June 2020 issue, the newsletter will now be published monthly.

This issue focuses on talking to kids about social justice. With race and racism in the news, children of all ages are likely to have questions. Talking to children about race and racism is important, but it can be difficult to know how to handle these conversations in an age-appropriate way. For that reason, this newsletter provides a variety of resources that can help families talk about these important issues.

Summer Learning

Many school districts will offer summer school opportunities this summer. Please contact your child's school to find out what opportunities are available for your child! If your child participates in the local Migrant Education Program (MEP), please contact the MEP staff directly for questions regarding summer school opportunities. If you are

unable to reach MEP staff, you may contact the migrant regional director to find out about summer services available to migratory students. The contact information for the migrant regional directors can be found on the CDE Regional Offices and Direct Funded Districts web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/me/mt/regions.asp>.

New Informational Resources

National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) COVID-19 Resources

The NCFH has released a collection of COVID-19 resources for agricultural workers and employers that are available in a variety of languages including Spanish and indigenous languages.

The collection is available on the NCFH Resources on Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 web page at <https://www.ncfh.org/covid-19.html>.

California COVID-19 Help for Immigrants

If you are an immigrant living in California, there is information available to help you protect yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19. Services and public benefits are available to you, some regardless of immigration status. Immigrants who do not qualify for other programs can apply for special assistance on the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants web page at <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/immigration/covid-19-drai>. This web page is available in a variety of languages—visitors to the page may select a language by clicking “select language” in the upper right corner of the page.

For more information about COVID-19 assistance for immigrants, including testing, treatment, and disaster release information, visit the State of California Help for Immigrants web page at <https://covid19.ca.gov/guide-immigrant-californians/>.

Informational Resources Included Every Week

School Lunch Information: CA Meals for Kids

Parents can still pick up school lunches during COVID-19 related school closures. Use the "CA Meals for Kids" mobile app to find meals or you can contact your school district directly for more information. Some districts now offer home delivery for school lunches. Parents should contact their child's school to see if the school has opted into this optional program.

For more information on the “CA Meals for Kids” mobile app, the CDE News Release: CA Meals for Kids App Update is available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/497627>.

Getting Internet Access

If you do not have access to the internet at home, there are several companies offering services to families. Contact the companies listed on the link below on the CDE web page to discuss available plans.

Please refer to the Getting Internet Access: Available Plans web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/498321>

Home Learning Resources

Below are free recommended resources that you can use with your children to start conversations about race and racism. The resources are sorted by age group so that you can select resources that are appropriate for your child.

Resources for Young Children

Racism and Violence: Using Your Power as a Parent to Support Children Aged Two to Five

This guide from the organization Zero to Three helps parents talk about racism and equity with young children. It provides guidelines and ideas for answering difficult questions. To read the guide in Spanish, click “en español” below the article title.

Racism and Violence: Using Your Power as a Parent to Support Children Aged Two to Five is available on the Zero to Three website at <https://bit.ly/ZerotoThreeGuide>.

Sesame Street and CNN Town Hall for Kids and Families: Coming Together, Standing Up to Racism

This video from Sesame Street and CNN explains racism and protests for racial justice to young children. This town hall includes the characters from Sesame Street as well as Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and other experts answering questions from children and parents about race and racism.

This video is available on the CNN website at <https://bit.ly/ComingTogetherTownHall>.

Sesame Street Song: I Love My Hair

This song from Sesame Street celebrates Black hair and can help parents and children talk about diversity and embracing differences.

This song is available to stream on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/enpFde5rgmw>.

Resources for Older Children and Teens

Newsela Exploring Resistance Movements in the United States

This collection of articles from Newsela focuses on how individuals and groups resist injustices and includes articles on the Selma to Montgomery March, Sojourner Truth, and the labor movement, among other topics. This collection is appropriate for teenagers and articles can be customized for different reading levels. To access this collection, you need to create a free Newsela student account.

This collection of articles can be found on the Newsela website at <https://newsela.com/subject/other/2000019981>.

Black History Collection

History.com's Black history collection features information, images, and video clips on important events and people including the Greensboro sit-in, slavery in America, Harriet Tubman, the Civil Rights Movement, and much more. This collection can help provide context for today's events and the many influential Black leaders who have fought for racial justice.

The Black history collection is available on the History.com website at <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history>.

PBS Black America Since MLK: Still I Rise Film

The film *Black America Since MLK: Still I Rise*, by Henry Luis Gates, chronicles the history of Black Americans from the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work to today. The film includes some intense historical images and footage and is not appropriate for younger children.

This film is available for free until September 7, 2020, on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) website at <https://www.pbs.org/show/black-america-mlk-and-still-i-rise/>.

Resources for All Ages

Talking to Children About Racial Bias

This article from the organization Healthy Children provides tips for parents about talking about racial bias with children of various ages. To access this article in Spanish, click "en español" at the top of the page.

This article is available on the Healthy Children website at <https://bit.ly/TalkingAboutRacialBias>.

Books About Racism and Social Justice

This book list from Common Sense Media includes books about racism and social justice for children of all ages. The list can be sorted by age and is available in Spanish by clicking “ver en español” at the top of the page. To find one of these books, contact your local public library to see if they are open to the public or offering ebooks or audiobooks that can be checked out remotely.

This list of books about racism and social justice can be found on the Common Sense Media web page at <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/books-about-racism-and-social-justice>.

Social Media and Email

To stay up to date with new resources and information, follow the CDE English Learner Support Division on Twitter [@MultilingualCA](https://twitter.com/MultilingualCA).

To subscribe to the English Learner Updates Listserv, send a blank email to join-english-learner-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov.