

# Fostering Organic Learning at Home

As a result of school closures caused by COVID-19, students across the globe are suddenly, and unexpectedly, finding themselves without the structure and routine of school. Parents and teachers want them to continue growing academically during this unusual time, but it can be hard to know where to start.

Clonlara School supports more than 1,000 homeschool and distance learners every year. We have learned a few tips and tricks about turning everyday life into learning opportunities (without spending a lot of time in front of a screen), and we are happy to share them with you.

## Cook and bake

Now that life has slowed a little, take the time to involve your children in meal prep. Kids can learn knife skills, measurement, reading skills, and science just by talking through the process of preparing a recipe.

## Read books

This one is pretty obvious, but now is the perfect time to dive into the Newbery or Caldecott list, read books by a favorite author, or explore a new genre. A **daily read-aloud** is something your kids will never forget!

## Play games

Kids love games, and a lot can be learned from Pay Day, Blokus, Chess, or A Ticket to Ride. **Children learn best through play**, and games are a way for the whole family to play together.

## Plan a project

Have your kids been asking to repaint their bedroom, plant a garden, or rearrange the furniture? These types of projects involve lots of measuring, budgeting, and critical thinking skills.

## Write letters

Revive the lost art of letter writing while giving your child a practical **way to improve handwriting** and sentence structure. Make a list of who might really enjoy a piece of mail during this time of social isolation.

## Research a topic

Ask your child what they would like to learn and let them dive into it. Books, documentaries, YouTube, and mentors are great resources. Once they are “experts,” they can share their knowledge in a presentation, poster, or speech.

## Enjoy nature

Hikes and bike rides are great ways for children to decompress and learn outdoors. Collect rocks, identify trees and birds, and record information in a nature journal.

*Clonlara School serves K–12 students around world through its Campus, Off-Campus, and Online Programs. Visit [www.clonlara.org](http://www.clonlara.org) to learn more.*

