

Hot Topic Session 6: Supporting Early Learners in Distance Learning

Presented by: Jennifer Gateley
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
Program Manager: System of Support

Session Topics



1. Supporting School Readiness in Distance Learning
2. The Value of Parent - Teacher Partnerships in Distance Learning
3. Developmentally Appropriate Experiences in Distance Learning

There must be a profound recognition that parents are the first teachers and that education begins before formal schooling and is deeply rooted in the values, traditions, and norms of family and culture.

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot

Young Learners in Distance Learning

Supporting our youngest students in distance learning is about empowering families and caregivers with confidence and skills to provide engaging and developmentally appropriate early learning experiences

PARENT-TEACHER PARTNERSHIPS: THE THREE C'S

COMMUNICATION

Frequent, two-way communication is important to stay apprised of what is happening at school, and to let teachers know important things about your child.

CONSISTENCY

Creating routines and providing consistent opportunities to enhance your child's learning at home reinforces the notion that you and his teacher are working together to support him.

COLLABORATION

A collaborative, cooperative partnership involves planning and problem-solving to develop specific, positive strategies to help children achieve to their highest potential.



Early Learning
NETWORK

earlylearningnetwork.unl.edu

How do we support the needs of Early Learning students in Distance Learning?



1. Inspire Active Exploration

Foster opportunities to engage in real-world learning experiences and ensure that they're feasible in your students' homes

Invite families to submit photos of their spaces or survey them to better understand the resources available to them



2. Foster Creative Play

Develop foundational social and emotional, executive functioning, and academic skills

Create spaces with open-ended materials that provoke children's engagement with each other and their surroundings



3. Develop Authentic Engagement

Engaging young learners in distance learning can be as simple as creating enjoyable learning activities for children and families

- ❖ Audio recordings of read-alouds or songs
- ❖ Child-friendly cooking recipes
- ❖ Use household items to build an imaginary structure
- ❖ Singing and dancing
- ❖ Nature walks
- ❖ Grocery shopping trips



In summary...

Children between the ages of 2 and 7 are still in the Pre-Operational Stage of childhood development.

Developmentally appropriate distance learning should include learning activities in the home to minimize screen time.



Take-Away Task



Identify key strategies to support participation for Early Learners in Distance Learning:

- ❑ Determine short durations of time for students to focus on learning
- ❑ Identify the most essential tasks that require screen time
- ❑ Talk to children to turn play time into learning time
- ❑ Allow children to learn and play at their own pace
- ❑ Keep learning time fun and light!

Join us for our next session...

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| Session 1 | Establishing a Foundation for Distance Learning |
| Session 2 | Addressing Equity in Distance Learning |
| Session 3 | Developing Positive Student and Family Mindsets for Distance Learning |
| Session 4 | Fostering Student and Family Well-Being in Distance Learning |
| Session 5 | Prioritizing Core Instructional Values in Distance Learning |
| Session 6 | Supporting Early Learners in Distance Learning |
| Session 7 | Engaging Adolescents in Distance Learning |
| Session 8 | Implementing Best Practices for Family Engagement in Distance Learning |
| Session 9 | Family Engagement in Distance Learning: Exemplars From the Field |