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How to Ensure Kids Are Entertained and Learning When Weather Keeps Them In

Across the country, parents everywhere are encountering a difficult reality and looking for ways to keep their children occupied while schools are closed due to the coronavirus. In a perfect world, we would all have bountiful lesson plans and plenty of outdoor time, but home isn't school and rainy or cold weather makes it difficult to get outside.

And when your kids are stuck inside, it can make for a long, dull, frustrating day for everyone. Instead of letting those yucky days get the better of you, why not turn them into opportunities for fun and growth? With a touch of creativity and planning, you can ensure they stay entertained and learning instead of stir-crazy and bored.

Tap into Tech Resources

Much is made of kids spending too much time involved with electronics, and with good reason. Verywell Health points out too much [screen time](#) for kids can lead to a world of troubles, like obesity, sleep issues, and problems in school. However, those same devices can be a boon if

you know how to use them to your advantage - and kids love playing with them, so sometimes tech can be a perfect solution.

One of the best tools for moms and dads is a streaming stick TV device. Protect Young Eyes explains streaming devices offer [parental controls](#), and you also have the convenience of portability and power to stream to whatever screen works best for your situation. You can set your kids up in the playroom with [dance](#) videos so they can be creative and burn off steam, or aim for fun [shows](#) that promote literacy. On top of all that, if you want to take shows with you on family getaways or just to granny's house, you can simply bring along your streaming device.

Another great tech teaching tool is an e-reader. With the device in-hand and access to WiFi, you can download free age-appropriate [books](#) to your and your children's hearts' content. Reading is associated with many benefits to kids, like scholastic success and self-confidence, and it's a good way to provide quiet time on inclement days.

Keep in mind that you need a reliable internet connection to enjoy many of these resources. Although it's designed specifically for gamers, [fiber-optic](#) internet packages are often used by people who want the fastest and most reliable speeds available. You may not know Fortnite from Call of Duty, but that doesn't mean you can't reap the benefits these packages provide.

Dress the Part

All kids love playing dress-up, and on the days they are stuck inside it can lead to loads of fun. What's more, Sigikid explains [this type](#) of play encourages important skills, like physical coordination, communication, and of course, imagination. You can assemble a playtime [wardrobe](#) from your own cast-offs including full outfits, scarves, bags, and jewelry. When you're out running errands next time, you can even hit up thrift stores and dollar retailers for clothing and fun accessories like giant sunglasses and sombreros!

Think about items that can change from their obvious uses, too. For instance, a big, lofty scarf you used to wear with suits could become a superhero cape for your creative kiddo, and a costume jewelry necklace could become a fancy Egyptian headdress.

Rather than running around trying to assemble everything on the fly, plan to keep all the goodies together in one place. You can even [decorate](#) the storage bin together for part of the day! Some fun letters and paint in your child's color of choice make for a pleasing storage and organization solution.

Gamify Learning

[Board games](#) are a classic diversion for foul-weather days, and they are also a wonderful resource for learning. As an example, Monkeys Up is a game for the whole family, and it helps kids learn how to develop strategies and critical thinking while promoting their memorization

skills. Similarly, Hoot Owl Hoot! is a color-coded, strategy-teaching game with your kiddos starring as adorable owls who must work together in order to win.

Prodigy points out there are also electronic [games](#) that help reinforce various school subjects. For instance, Twelve a Dozen is an algebra-enhancing game, and Toca Lab is science-oriented fun. For kids who like the idea of learning to code, Tynker might be an ideal choice. Homer is a fun one for youngsters working on reading skills, and Tate Kids is a great go-to for artistic children.

When your kiddos are stuck at home for safety's sake, don't let foul weather dampen everyone's spirits! Next time you and Mother Nature are at odds, turn the day into an opportunity for fun and learning for your kids. From gadgets to board games and dressing in style, you'll all have memory-making fun of the best possible sort.