Facilitating Meaningful Online Experiences with Young Children: Unexpected Challenges and Joyful Opportunities in Action

You’ll stay on the couch! You’ll stay in your room! You’ll stay in a chair for a meeting on Zoom! You’ll stay in the bathroom—a brief getaway! There are so many places at home you will stay!

TOILET PAPER?!
WAITING FOR YOU

—Bev Bos
We’ve been waiting for you to come to this place,
Waiting for you to come to this place,
Wherever you’re from,
We’re glad that you’ve come.
We’ve been waiting for you to come to this place.

4/29/2020
THE WHYS
1. The journey and what I’ve learned
2. Sharing joy
3. It begins with US
4. Rituals and traditions for this time
5. Sharing experiences from programs
6. Remember, reflect, share, uplift

“The Journey….”
“WHAT STORY DO YOU WANT TO BE KNOWN FOR?”

“...Find out where joy resides, and give it a voice far beyond singing. For to miss the joy is to miss all.”
- ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

PURE JOY!
FINDING JOY IN THE SIMPLE MOMENTS!

“When we witness acts of goodness, we’re more likely to see our common humanity.”
--Jason Siegel, researcher

“Stories of goodness have the capacity to touch us all, filling us with hope for humanity and the sense we can do better.”
--Jonathan Haidt
Kindness Resources

We need to distance ourselves, but that doesn’t mean we can’t help each other. During difficult times, we often see the most beautiful acts of kindness. If you’re home and looking for things to do to keep busy, scroll down for a list of resources to help! We will get through this sooner if we take care of ourselves and each other (without risking contagion).

Kindness is a powerful tool. Let’s use it.

https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/
“We can’t offer to others what we don’t possess for ourselves….”
--Dr. Becky Bailey

HRCCC COVID CONNECTIONS EVERY DAY!
We gave educators almost no notice. We asked them to completely redesign what school looks like and in about 24 hours local administrators and teachers “Apollo 13’d” the problem and fixed it. Kids learning, children being fed, needs being met in the midst of a global crisis. No state agency did this, no so-called national experts on curriculum. The local educators fixed it in hours. INOURS.

In fact, existing state and federal policies actually created multiple roadblocks. Local schools figured out how to do it around those too. No complaining and no handwringing – just solutions and amazingly clever plans.

Remember that the next time someone tries to convince you that schools are better run by mandates from non-educators. Remember that the next time someone tells you that teachers have it easy or try to persuade you that educators are not among the smartest, most ingenious people in society. And please never say to me again: “Those who can’t do anything else just go into teaching.”

Get out of the way of a teacher and watch with amazement at what really happens.

**April 2020 Happiness Calendar**

This month, find resilience and reduce anxiety.

Keep up with the goals of connection, compassion, and happiness by subscribing to our newsletter.
VALUES—BEING INTENTIONAL

Adopt caring values that guide integrity and activate empathy to help others.

Where are the children now?

LETTING CHILDREN KNOW THEY MATTER! IT’S ALL ABOUT CONNECTION!
“Many teachers spend their time searching for activities. The best teachers spend their time creating experiences.”

Dr. Nathan Lang-Raad

CURRICULUM THAT INSPIRES AND CONNECTS
CREATE EXPERIENCES
Creating a YES space

https://www.janetlansbury.com/2014/08/play-space-inspiration/

THE SHARING OF EXPERIENCES

FROM THE SPIRIT SQUAD-HRCCC
DO YOU LOVE CHILDREN’S BOOKS???
https://archive.org/
FORTS

40

DJ Mo Bell
DANCE!!!!

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Forget dancing like no one is watching.
Dance like a toddler. They don’t even care if there’s music.

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BABY DOLL CIRCLE TIME

Dr Becky Bailey,
Baby Doll Circle Time

TRANSITION

GET YOUR BABY...
(tune of “Oh, My Darling”...

“Get your baby,
Get your baby,
Get your baby,
Time to play.

Get your baby,
Get your baby,
Get your baby,
Time to play.”

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS
SING YOUR HEART OUT!!
(BUT ONE AT A TIME!!! 😊)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DyWx4qZHdS

RITUALS:
“Rituals are procedures or routines that are
infused with deeper meaning. They help make
common experiences uncommon events”
(Deal & Peterson 1999, 32).

TRADITIONS:
Traditions are meaningful events or experiences that a
class or program has created and that are expected to
occur regularly.

“Everyday moments of collective effervescence can make us
feel more connected to others, and make us feel as if our life
has meaning,” says Shira Gabriel PhD. “Our research
suggests that people who experience these things a lot are
likely to be happier and feel less anxious and depressed.”

“Look for ways to engage in new rituals when possible, she
suggests. “It may be a virtual or digital one, where the sense
of connection is perhaps a little less tangible, but it’s still
very important,” says Gabriel.”
INTENTIONAL RITUALS CREATE CONNECTIONS: SOCIAL PLAY

“Kindness is a skill that can be practiced over time...like riding a bike.... (We) learn it so well it becomes automatic (Roeser 2014)

A wonderful woman lived in a shoe.
She had so many children
She knew exactly what to do.
She held them, she rocked them,
She tucked them in bed,
“I love you, I love you”,
Is what she said.
--Dr. Becky Bailey
CHILDREN INSPIRING CHILDREN....

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

~ Jane Goodall

EXPERIENCES...

GUIDANCE FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG CHILDREN THROUGH COVID-19

https://dey.org
We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return to my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature.

SONYA RENEE TAYLOR

JUST MAYBE…
What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet. What if they notice the birds and the dates that the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

Neurochild

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What if this generation is the one to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry, and keep a well run home? What if they learn to stretch a dollar and to live with less? What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

Neurochild

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What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

Neurochild
What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educators, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, foggers, and health care workers and their supporting staff?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who has the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life. What if he or she truly learns what really matters in this life? What if they are ahead?

This pandemic experience is a massive experiment in collective vulnerability. We can be our worst selves when we’re afraid, or our very best, bravest selves. In the context of fear and vulnerability, there is often very little in between because when we are uncertain and afraid our default is self-protection. We don’t have to be scary when we’re scared. Let’s choose awkward, brave, and kind.

And let’s choose each other.
THANK YOU
I CAN REACHED FOR WORKSHOPS AND CONSULTING AT:
azspire@gmail.com
https://www.azspire.com/

LEAN ON ME!
PLAYING FOR CHANGE