A False Dichotomy: Health or Education

1. Relational
2. Academic
3. Support for educators
4. Accessibility
5. Family engagement and collaboration
6. Creating an academic environment at home
7. Isolation

Key Challenges
Take Care of Yourself

- Recognize your feelings:
  - Loss
  - Fear
  - Disequilibrium
- Draw on your creativity and experience
- Create a safe and defined space for – Your Physical and Emotional self

Educator Support

- Ask for help
- You don’t need to know everything – Share funds of knowledge
- Become a researcher with children
The Power of our Profession

- Engage your creativity
- Be innovative
- Take risks
- Embrace the challenge
Relationships First

- With children
- With Peers
- With Families
- With Colleagues

Lessons from Mr. Rogers

Promote a welcoming environment where children thrive
Create Rituals and Routines

Children need to know that the person they see on the screen cares about them!

Focus on What is Essential
• Decide on the knowledge children absolutely need to acquire and what skills they need to grow and develop
• Create opportunities for active exploration
• Invite children to share their discoveries
Take Care of Families

- Align Expectations NOT rules
- Invite them to learn with the children
- Recognize family dynamics
- Respect culture

Know the children and families.

- Learn about their values, histories, and traditions
- Send surveys ahead of time, spend time just learning about each other
- Decide ahead of time what you are willing to share about yourself

Limit Screen Time
Access to Technology

Families may have one table or computer that is being shared by more than one person.

Connectivity

Offer flexibility or alternatives for students to access materials online, for instance sharing PDFs instead of videos that require more bandwidth.

Focus on children’s interest and ideas

Let them play!
Collecting Loose Parts at Home

Go on walks and collect the gifts of nature

Collecting Loose Parts at Home

Go on a scavenger hunt at home and find ordinary objects to use in play and learning

Invite families to collect loose parts around the house that children can use to:

• Build
• Design
• Create
• Explore their feelings and ideas
Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Use leaves for exploring scientific thinking

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Use rocks to compare and contrast attributes

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Water bottles to explore light and refraction
Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Use cups, paper plates and cardboard tubes to explore engineering

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Use cans to explore building and construction

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Cooking utensils to explore sound, pitch and rhythm – Precursors to reading
Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Use loose parts to explore storytelling

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Explore the meaning of print

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Use tile and glass beads to explore design thinking
Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Use paper to explore the elements of art

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Explore mathematical thinking

Using Loose Parts to Promote Learning

Invite children to take photos of their collections to share with the class on the next virtual meeting
Playing with Loose Parts –
Making Connections to Standards and curriculum

Support children's development of mathematical and scientific thinking

Allow children to practice their first literacy behaviors and language in ways that make sense to them.

Roskos & Neuman
Provide an avenue to express experiences, insights, and discoveries.

Foster valuable dispositions that strengthen children’s intellectual and academic capacities.

Most Importantly: We must stay true to our belief that children learn best through play!
With your passion for teaching, your commitment to Children and our support, together we can create engaging and creative virtual learning!

Join us and register to get our newsletter!

https://www.playficationlearning.com/