

## **DISTANCE LEARNING FOR A STUDENT WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITY**

Thank you so much for what you do for our students. Here are a few practices to be mindful of as we transition to distance learning:

Active, clear and concise communication with the parent during this remote learning is critical. Ritual communication is vital to develop and promote comfort and assurance to the family. Working together to identify the critical skills that can be addressed during this time of distance learning will help to mitigate any learning regressions and assist students to reach optimum success.

For each skill to be addressed, determine the method of delivery for instruction and specially designed instruction (instructional packet, email, virtual, videoconferencing, etc) best suited for achievement. Each skill may need a different method of delivery.

The student may be able to work through an eLearning platform, require printed work, or may need to see and hear the teacher via a meeting conference platform. It is recommended that students with severe and moderate support needs receive personalized communication from their special education teacher at least twice a week. As a teacher, you know how each student learns best and the services and supports during the distance learning time period should be individualized and build upon the strengths of the student.

One of the main issues for this population will be getting the student accustomed to receiving instruction outside of the school building. As you know, this can be a difficult transition for the student. Consistency is key. It is very important to work with the family to describe the learning environment and learning characteristics of their child, the successful means of communication, and all strategies needed to be successful at home. The family may initially need more of your time to assist them in transitioning to the role of primary instructor and to successfully engage their child through the distance learning period. Take the time to communicate learning expectations and coach families around how to provide accommodations and modifications to their child as they are learning.

Special Education Services appreciates you and the work you are doing during this unprecedented transition to distance learning. Please stay well and feel free to contact me at [sgoldthwaite@alsde.edu](mailto:sgoldthwaite@alsde.edu).

Special Education Services  
Alabama State Department of Education  
334-694-4782



**The Kansas Department of Education has produced a presentation entitled "How do I continue to support my students with significant cognitive disabilities?" I am sending this to you with a list of additional resources. Please know that we will help you the best we can so feel free to reach out to us at Special Education Services.**



# How do I continue to support my students with significant cognitive disabilities?

# Strategies for Teaching Special Education Online



Teaching Special Education Online During COVID 19 –  
CEC Webinar

# 8 Strategies

1. Engage with your students – be present, authentic, personal, enthusiastic
2. Set clear expectations – reset, redirect, help students reassess
3. Create a supportive learning environment and get personal
4. Foster personal relationships and have fun
5. Use a mix of exiting tools readily available
6. Zoom – can use break out rooms then bring everyone back
7. Smaller chunks and patterns of activity (prepare, teach, apply, reflect)
8. Provide prompt feedback (instruction, assess, feedback, then adjust instruction or learning focus)



# IDEAS

- A story a day while we're away
- Use low tech and no tech options
- Use choice boards



# Christine Reeve

Ep 31 Making Distance Education Work in Special Education



# Resources shared

- Facebook group – Autism Classroom Resources' Special Educators Connection
- Website – Autism Classroom news and resources  
[www.autismclassroomresources.com](http://www.autismclassroomresources.com)
  - Blog
  - Podcast
  - Shop
  - Special Educator Academy (free 7 days then \$20 per month)
  - Free Resource Library – independent work systems, challenging behaviors, data systems, free printables, behavior support videos



# Recommendations/Ideas

- Choose activities that can be easily adapted to home environment
- Free printables – free scavenger hunts – focus on language in the environment
- Activities to do everyday
- Change background on zoom/google classroom (less distracting)



# Recommendations Continued

- Parents can video task, take picture, or teacher can observe activity through zoom
  - Parent can report (a lot of help, a little help, no help)
- Choose activities that give us a work product
- Involve students in everyday activities
- There is no right way to do this, because we have never done this before.
- Don't stress about things you can not change
- Use video modeling of activities
- Communication temptations – how to temp nonverbal student to communicate



# How do I begin?

- “Less is more.” – start small
- Parent meeting – How is it going? What is our schedule like? What can I help you with?
- “Doing something is better than doing nothing.”
- Use token board/working for board – can deliver, email pdf, mail
- Send home core communication boards
- Visual schedules/task schedule – don’t need to do this for the whole day – start small 3 things( reading, math, independent work).
- Give lots of breaks, pause and be thoughtful



# Online resources

- TeachTown basics–free (discrete trials online)
- Unique Learning Systems/N2Y– free has data collection built in (Use benchmark testing available with N2Y /Unique)
- Google voice
- Classtag.com – parent teacher communication (free)
  
- Jacob’s lessons – discrete trial online and free [www.jacobslessons.com](http://www.jacobslessons.com)
- Vizzle NextGen– track IEP goals
- Bitsboard – (app) file folder activities, lessons, mini games
- Connectability – free symbols [www.connectability.ca](http://www.connectability.ca)
- Affirm.fpg.unc.edu – visual schedules for stay at home (free)



## Special Education HOME ENRICHMENT TOOLS

FREE

Scavenger Hunts and Games

Home Enrichment Tools for Distance Learning

[Read More...](#)

## Differentiated MONEY WORKSHEETS

Shopping for a Match

FREE SAMPLE

Bills & Coins Cut & Paste

Money Worksheets

[Read More...](#)

## NEXT DOLLAR UP Worksheets

AUTISM CLASSROOM

Next Dollar Worksheets

[Read More...](#)

## LEISURE ACTIVITIES Schedule

AUTISM CLASSROOM

Leisure Schedule Visuals

[Read More...](#)





Spring Life Skills  
[Read More...](#)



Next Dollar Task Cards  
[Read More...](#)



Silverware Counting  
 Templates  
[Read More...](#)



Free Visual Classroom  
 Rules  
[Read More...](#)



# Christie Reeve's Home Enrichment Tools

## PLANNING HOME ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

If you are sending work home for students to complete with families, you can use the lesson plan in Google doc below to make a calendar of activities. It's completely editable so you can use it how you want.

You will need a Google account and to make a copy to your account. This protects the original from any edits you make.

You can use the activities multiple times over different days and choose the number of activities you need the student to work on.

I included a life-skills activity each day for them to work on as well.

You could also use the scavenger hunts and games to work with students in synchronous time where you are online with them.

For the scavenger hunts, you could have their parents help them locate the items and then have them put them in front of the computer / camera. You could then give the prompts for encouraging the language.

For the games, you could play them with some facilitation of the pieces or prompting from the parents.

Google Doc Calendar Link

<https://acrlinks.com/2webie4>



# Christie Reeve's Scavenger Hunts

**KITCHEN SCAVENGER HUNT**  
Find each of the following items and cross them out as you find them.



potholder      Pan      Can Opener

Spatula      Grater      Knife

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What is it?
2. Which do you use when something is hot?
3. Which do you scrape the bowl with?
4. Which one opens cans?
5. Which is sharp?
6. Which shreds cheese?
7. What goes on the stove?
8. Which are made of metal?

**CRAFTS SCAVENGER HUNT**  
Find each of the following items and cross them out as you find them.



Markers      Scissors      Crayons

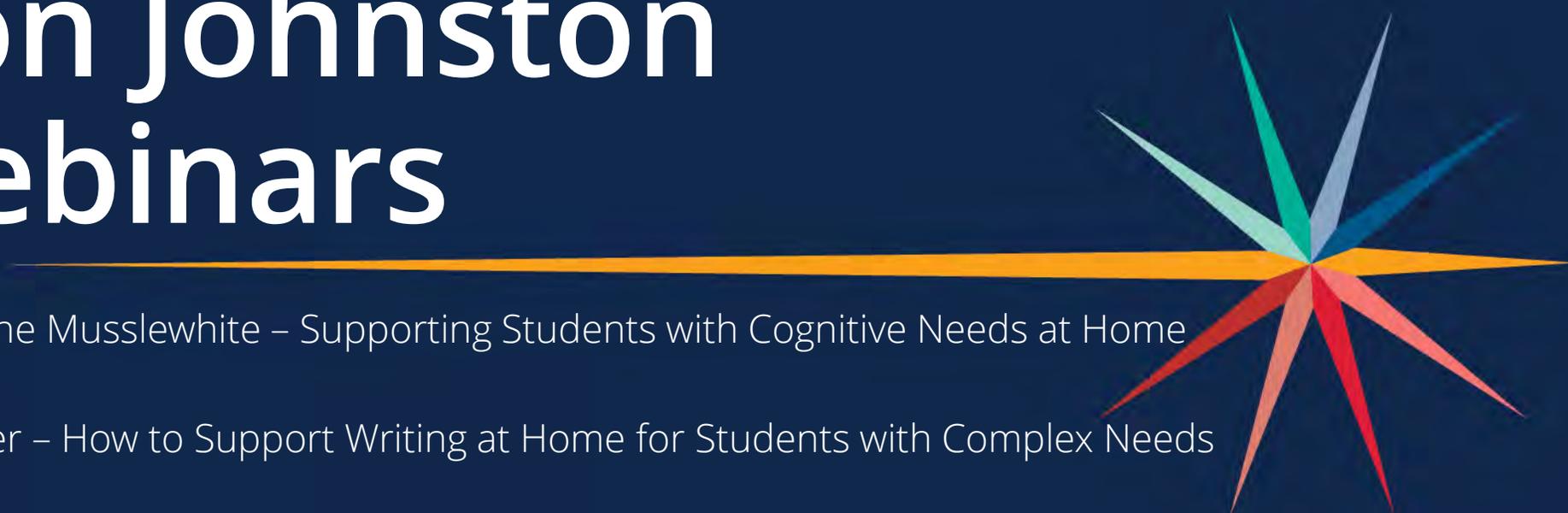
Glue      Envelope      Ribbon

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What is it?
2. What color is it?
3. Which is sharp?
4. What can you write with?
5. Which one goes in the mail?
6. Which one is a liquid?
7. What do we cut with?
8. Which can we color with?
9. Which one can we tie?



# Don Johnston Webinars



Dr. Caroline Musslewhite – Supporting Students with Cognitive Needs at Home

Kelly Foner – How to Support Writing at Home for Students with Complex Needs

# Webinar: Dr Caroline Musselwhite – Supporting Students with Complex Needs at Home

- READTOPIA
- Each Thematic Unit includes a teacher guide that walks educators step-by-step through instruction using the Readtopia resources:
  - videos on the Way,
  - tips for direct instruction/coaching,
  - tricks for engaging/supporting learners,
  - built-in annotations, lots of suggestions,
  - 3 different levels of support (emergent, transitional, conventional students),
  - white paper.



# READTOPIA

READTOPIA



English Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Science

Life Skills

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Readtopia is a special education instructional program designed for middle and high school students with autism and other complex needs. It serves as an integrated comprehensive reading curriculum across several domains of study including ELA, Math, Social Studies, Life Skills, and Science. The company is providing a full unit free of charge. Follow the link and scroll to the part of the page on pricing where you will find a link to sign up for a free access to a unit.

Get one month free – a mini thematic unit- Working together (Birds, Mammals, and Reptiles (Dr. Dolittle) – younger students;- The Gold Bug - older students



# What is included in READTOPIA

- Sample Graphic Novel -Birds, Mammals, and Reptiles have 5 levels of the graphic novel, The Gold Bug has 7 levels of the graphic novel
- Just right connections
- Videos – building mental models
- Anchor, read, apply
- Guided reading
- Literature supports – interactive reading
- Shared reading
- Assistive technology
- Props
- Independent reading
- Close reading,
- Phonics instruction
- Alphabet instruction
- Making words
- Word study
- Math



# First Author: How to Support Writing at Home for Students with Complex Needs

**Kelly Fonner, M.S.**

- Webinar should be posted in the next couple days
- First Author writing curriculum
- Free sample <https://learningtools.donjohnston.com/product/first-author/request-1/>
- Adaptive lessons
- Writing curriculum components: mini lessons (5-10 min), independent writing time (20-45 min – choose topic – find picture to represent topic, choose tool to write with, use alphabet to write), author's chair (1 day/week), assessment measures
- Getting started in home: acquire the curriculum, adjust your schedule for writing time, create your child's binder, decide upon writing tool, do a preassessment- current writing sample, determine starting lesson – goal meet once a week (coaching, consulting etc)



# Four Ways to Write

1. Draw/photos (topic)
  2. Scribbling (writing tools/apps)
  3. Alphabet (inventive spelling/words/sentences)
  4. Rate enhancements (word banks/word prediction)
- Alternative pencils –
  - No tech, low tech, high tech



# Resources

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# Boardmaker Activities To Go

READING AVENUE

English Language Arts

**Boardmaker**<sup>®</sup>

<https://goboardmaker.com/collections/boardmaker-activities-to-go> Boardmaker Activities to Go are free, downloadable, printable activities for students in K-12. Designed for parents, educators, speech language pathologists, behavior specialists, and others across home, school, and clinic settings. Includes three levels of materials for students from beginners to those who are working on developing some independent skills.

<http://www.boardmakeronline.com/Login.aspx>

Sign-up for a 30-day free license to Boardmaker Online to use an entire collection of ready-made, online lessons including the comprehensive English Language Arts program called Reading Avenue.





# Tar Heel Reader

- Thousands of books on all topics including pop culture, current events, and any topic you choose.
- <https://tarheelreader.org/>
- Tar Heel Reader is an online collection of free, easy-to-read, and accessible books on a range of topics. Each book can be read using built-in speech synthesis and accessed using multiple interfaces including touch screens, switches (1-3) and eye-gaze. Read books without registering. To write books, request an access code at [tarheelreader@cs.unc.edu](mailto:tarheelreader@cs.unc.edu)





# Tar Heel Shared Reader

- Thousands of books on all topics including pop culture, current events, and any topic you choose with onscreen supports
- <https://shared.tarheelreader.org/>
- Tar Heel Shared Reader uses books from the Tar Heel Reader library and includes onscreen communication supports. Read books without registering. To add comments to books, request an access code at [tarheelreader@cs.unc.edu](mailto:tarheelreader@cs.unc.edu) To learn more about using Tar Heel Shared Reader during shared reading, check out <http://sharedreader.org>



# DLM Familiar Text

- Familiar texts used in DLM assessments are shared through [Tar Heel Reader](#). Tar Heel Reader is a library of open-source, accessible, texts for individuals with disabilities of all ages. This page links directly to books used in DLM English language arts assessments. Find books by selecting Grade and Title. The link will take you to the book in Tar Heel Reader. Tar Heel Reader has been designed to allow students to use a variety of alternative access methods. More information about accessing Tar Heel Reader is [available on its website](#). When you are on the title page of a book in Tar Heel Reader, you may click the settings icon at the top right of the screen to download PowerPoint or EPUB versions of the books.
- Shared reading vignettes – describe what a shared reading interaction might look like between an adult and a student with significant cognitive disabilities, especially with those with limited means of communications



# DLM Exemplar Text Supports

- <https://www.dlmpd.com/exemplar-text-supports/>
- One of the challenges in providing students with the most significant disabilities with access to the general curriculum is finding materials that link directly to the grade level content, but are written at a level that is accessible. As part of the DLM<sup>®</sup> project we have been building a library of companion texts that go with the exemplar texts called out in the Appendix of the Common Core State Standards. These books are accessible, open-source texts that you and your students can read online, on a reader that uses epub files, or offline as Powerpoint files or printed versions of the books.



# English Language Arts

- <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- Storyline Online, streams videos featuring famous actors reading children's books. Children can see the book pages and read along with these award-winning books. Children of all ages and their parents will find new books to love and old favorites on this site.



# Scholastic Learn at Home

SCHOLASTIC LEARN AT HOME



Cross Curricular Lessons and Activities

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

This free resource provides 20 days of articles and stories (can be read using built-in speech synthesis), videos, and fun learning challenges. Children can complete them anytime, in any order.





# English Language Arts

- <https://aaclanguagelab.com>
- The AAC Language Lab offers real-life solutions in support of language development for children who use augmentative and alternative communication. Explore language stages and interactive materials designed for Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs), Educators and Parents. Knowing many schools are closed, the company is providing a FREE 2-month subscription option to allow educators and families to access quick and easy activities to engage children at home. Start by creating an account then, under My Account, go to Purchase for Myself and select Free 2 Month Trial under the Language Lab purchase options.





# AssistiveWare Core Word Classroom English Language Arts

- <https://coreword.assistiveware.com/login>
- AssistiveWare Core Word Classroom is an online resource for teaching communication and interaction across the day, including a special section to help parents teach communication during everyday routines. Sign up for a free account and then check out the resources including the section on *Core Words at Home*.



# Autism Classroom News and Resources

- <https://autismclassroomresources.com/free-resources-for-home-practice/>
- Blog, Podcast, Resources, Special Educator Academy – all are free except Special Educator Academy which has free 7 day trial then \$20 per month
- Christie Reeve – Ep 31 Making Distance Education Work in Special Education (podcast)  
<https://autismclassroomresources.com/podcasts/distance-learning/>
- Facebook group: Autism Classroom Resources' Special Educators Connection



# Resource for DB, VI, HI, SMD

- Virtual Activities for Teachers and Families COVID-19
- Texas Sensory Support Network
- [http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=2643652&fbclid=IwAR0gzU\\_8z7XVEdO9Wejt4mb4wFh9G6-cNXAEhN7Zs1xMZQmyjOc2VIU4Ow8](http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=2643652&fbclid=IwAR0gzU_8z7XVEdO9Wejt4mb4wFh9G6-cNXAEhN7Zs1xMZQmyjOc2VIU4Ow8)

Best Practices for Remote Learning

Livestream Activities

Transitioning to Online Learning

Deaf Ed Specific Resources and Ideas

DeafBlind/DHH+/MIV I

DHH Self-Advocacy Resources for Teachers

Online Storytelling - Sign & More

SPED Resources and Ideas

Early Childhood Information & Resources

VI Specific Resources and Ideas

Teacher & Student Schedule Ideas

COVID-19 Info

Virtual Lessons

DCMP Captioned and Descriptive Videos

Non-Screen Activities

Free Educational Tools

Free Family Resources

Accessibility Resources

Social Distancing Activities

Dept of Ed Guidance Updates

Online PD for DHH and VI Professionals



# Additional Material



Resources for Working with Students with SCD During COVID 19

Transcript – Distance Learning in Special Education

DLM at Home Teaching Resources (Parent and Teacher version)

Tar Heel Reader Free Online Resource (TASN)

Supporting All Types of Learners (TASN)

Supporting Students at Home Guidance for teachers and parents webinar slides

How to Support Writing at Home for Students with Complex Needs webinar slides



Cary Rogers  
Education Program Consultant  
Special Education and Title Services Team  
(785) 296-0916  
[crogers@ksde.org](mailto:crogers@ksde.org)

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

All Digital School

Distance Learning for SWSCD

Happy Numbers

Khan Academy

### Teacher Created Material Resources

Renaissance Learning

Teacher Created Material Resources

EdHelper

Help with Math

Virtual Field Trips

Transition

Education Associates - Hygiene and Recreation

eLearning DJ

n2y

k-8 critical standards

Supports for SWSCD - Arkansas

Building Routines



## Additional Resources

[Customer Services Training Modules](#)

[Explore Careers](#)

[WVDE-Links to Resources](#)

[Transition Activities Online and At-home](#)

[Schedules](#)

[Great! worksheets](#)

[TED ED](#)