

## Digital Resources for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired

### For Students:

1. Free homework hotline with TVIs: <http://www.vistaseducation.com/homeworkhotline/>
2. Are you a parent of a child who is in need of braille or other special materials? Are you a volunteer with some time on your hands or perhaps access to an embosser? Please use the forms to be matched through this helpful service from Penny Rosenblum.:  
<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/working-together-support-students-visual-impairments-access-curriculum>
3. Virtual lessons (free) through APH: <https://www.aph.org/join-virtual-lessons-for-at-home-education/>
4. Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP):  
Is a free website that has tons of videos (with audio description and closed captioning). Videos can be sorted by topic, age and more. <https://dcmp.org/?fbclid=IwAR0snSqhrK0oU-nl2ERgnA-R5sNTVVleT9Mbxf5wSSqilZnpJtBxBdtWUw>
5. Bookshare:  
Is a free resource to children who have print disabilities, Books are available in a variety of formats. If you already have an account through school, consider asking your TVI for the log in. If you do not, you can create one for home. A form will need to be signed by the TVI or you can provide Proof of Disability. <https://www.bookshare.org/cms/>
6. Other Book options:
  - Consider checking with your TVI about your child's log in information for your child's BARD account or Learning Ally.
  - Consider Audible.com or books through the Kindle or other apps and use VoiceOver on your Apple device as an option.
  - Order 3 free books per year ages 0-21 (will be shipped to you in hard copy braille)  
<http://seedlings.org/special.php>
  - Scholastic learn at home:  
[https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/content/dam/classroom-magazines/magazines/support/scholastic-at-home/LAH-letter-families\\_rev.pdf](https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/content/dam/classroom-magazines/magazines/support/scholastic-at-home/LAH-letter-families_rev.pdf)
7. Story Box:  
Take a favorite book and make a story box of items to go with the story and use textures that will help understand a concept in the book (sandpaper for rough, soft material, etc.). Here are some ideas:

- From Wonder Baby: <http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/story-boxes>
- From Paths to Literacy: <https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/easy-create-story-boxes>
- Deaf-Blind Specific with Another from Paths to Literacy: <https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/story-boxes-literacy-adaptations-students-who-are-deafblind>

8. Want to work on Keyboarding? Some options from Paths to Literacy:

<https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/five-resources-teach-keyboarding-skills?fbclid=IwAR1qsnEjs2DM5AcboVOD0cctLh4UQnvxtOilCeVonMC5ngnC-dJjoaBFpul>

9. Screen reader commands from TVI Tips from Amanda's facebook page:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mv9hMcb6kRb800hIWFwpeW6L6ygTVy1/view?fbclid=IwAR0OgUZI8Z2kPvLs1OO97uCXvwGGGOQ1sohKXRnAYgv9fI9bwUqwSiUYB0>

10. Tactile Maps:

Possibly make some tactile maps together? You can use so many things from around the house. To make raised lines I have used any and all of the following: embossing ink and powder, puffy paint, glue gun, Elmer's glue. I've used paint and mixed in a little sand or salt to create texture ... you can really get creative and google tons of ideas. Here is site with an example get your mind turning: <https://www.familyconnect.org/.../creating-a-diy.../1235>

11. Streaming Audio Described Movies/Shows:

Netflix, Amazon Prime, Apple TV + and Disney + streaming have a ton of shows and movies in audio description and don't forget about all the described educational options that DCMP has (see #1.)

12. Independent Living Skills:

Washington state school for the blind has some video tutorials on how to teach some skills:

<https://www.wssb.wa.gov/welcome-to.../services/video-clips/>

<https://www.wssb.wa.gov/welcome-to-wssb/services/video-clips/>

The Expanded Core Curriculum for Visually Impaired Students (ECC) is perfect for learning at home. Check out this extensive response of ECC activities-

<https://www.prcvi.org/resources/the-expanded-core-curriculum/>

13. Virtual O&M:

From Perkins Learning website: <https://www.perkinselearning.org/.../virtual-instruction-om>

Found on 9 More Than Core:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wNjResbqVWkuQgew0OcuuXd2I4o5ZC4WZc27zE7Ywww>

14. Online Games:

Accessibyte Online is a series of accessible educational games designed specifically for students who are visually impaired or blind. Online Games link from Perkins Learning website:

[https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/virtual-instruction-accessibyte-apps?fbclid=IwAR0eZ56vT4Bf7t6kkIVk50aV23muwBiQ9B1YvckPbBMSZC1ohlob\\_yV9-gU](https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/virtual-instruction-accessibyte-apps?fbclid=IwAR0eZ56vT4Bf7t6kkIVk50aV23muwBiQ9B1YvckPbBMSZC1ohlob_yV9-gU)

15. Hundreds of instructional resources on Perkins Learning website. Each section has additional subsections, so be sure to explore. <https://www.perkinselearning.org/teaching-resources>

16. List of educational sites offering free subscription during this time. PLEASE NOTE, some of these might not be fully accessible with a screen reader or screen magnification software.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1t3r618pd8MAi6V87dG2D66PtikoHdHusBpjPKXgm36w/htmlview?usp=embed\\_facebook&sle=true&fbclid=IwAR3URtyHNpDCx4x6ZIVWWTL6rmKTTboG8wsgSi6oTT\\_7-zEf8UKvy1OeGVs](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1t3r618pd8MAi6V87dG2D66PtikoHdHusBpjPKXgm36w/htmlview?usp=embed_facebook&sle=true&fbclid=IwAR3URtyHNpDCx4x6ZIVWWTL6rmKTTboG8wsgSi6oTT_7-zEf8UKvy1OeGVs)

17. Virtual Museum Tours: [https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours?fbclid=IwAR00E7Yh6MFel8zQ7VQnWfQe7H\\_jolNKF0xTVtpExL6XwZ7Fx\\_XpRygKeo8](https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours?fbclid=IwAR00E7Yh6MFel8zQ7VQnWfQe7H_jolNKF0xTVtpExL6XwZ7Fx_XpRygKeo8)

18. Exercise:

- a. Turn up the music and dance together and teach each other new dance moves
- b. Take a walk or run together
- c. Free Virtual Exercise Class: Check out the link from Perkins Learning to find the Eyes Free website, app and YouTube Channel. Some workouts are free and a fee for others:  
<https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/eyes-free-fitness-described-workouts-blind-and-visually-impaired>

## For the Parents:

1. Schedule for Home-Based School Activities:

[https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/parent-created-schedule-home-based-school-activities?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Coping%20with%20School%20Closures&utm\\_content=Coping%20with%20School%20Closures+CID\\_2c035826c8f20438801859518aa83bf0&utm\\_source=Paths%20to%20Literacy%20Newsletter&utm\\_term=More%20on%20Home-Based%20Activities](https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/parent-created-schedule-home-based-school-activities?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Coping%20with%20School%20Closures&utm_content=Coping%20with%20School%20Closures+CID_2c035826c8f20438801859518aa83bf0&utm_source=Paths%20to%20Literacy%20Newsletter&utm_term=More%20on%20Home-Based%20Activities)

2. Q&A on Providing IEP Services During the COVID-19 Outbreak

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

3. Assess Skills?

Have you thought about taking this time to assess where your child is at with their skills? By doing this it can help you in future discussions with your IEP Team when thinking about goals. You as the parent can easily go through the assessments and it will help you understand where there are areas of need. Again, these links are to only a few of the assessment tool options.

- A few Access/Assistive Technology Assessments options from Perkins Learning website:
  - <https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/curriculum/checklists-assessments?fbclid=IwAR3OqNA61reXHPILGJmStXTDdZ3JBtmmWnHaRCmfLSsRyjbmYY9t9qIN02Y>
- Orientation and Mobility Assessments from Los Angeles's Unified School District:
  - [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10yWVS9j6tnZeeQrePI9svL44yAUmtB\\_v?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10yWVS9j6tnZeeQrePI9svL44yAUmtB_v?usp=sharing)
- Independent Living Skills, the Iowa Expanded Core Curriculum Resource Guide:
  - [https://www.tsbvi.edu/images/ECC/ECCResGuide\\_07.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2\\_iRh8E4WW2Itr4Yhaxldgt160WpQ826-R8muPOymkl8o4jC\\_tpW3S-14](https://www.tsbvi.edu/images/ECC/ECCResGuide_07.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2_iRh8E4WW2Itr4Yhaxldgt160WpQ826-R8muPOymkl8o4jC_tpW3S-14)
- Transition information and checklists from Project Aspiro:
  - <http://projectaspiro.com/en/friends-and-family/using-this-site/Pages/Using-this-site-with-your-child.aspx?fbclid=IwAR33Qz1RLolKxuKNZPr1G8cb4rIV2oAXm2LdLE0zW23JB3NpD18TYE3-5Lk>

4. Take a moment to check out some of the wonderful resources online such as:

- Paths To Literacy resources for Coping with School Closures:
  - [https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/coping-school-closures-during-covid-19?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Coping%20with%20School%20Closure&utm\\_content=Coping%20with%20School%20Closures%20CID\\_2c035826c8f20438801859518aa83bf0&utm\\_source=Paths%20to%20Literacy%20Newsletter&utm\\_term=More%20on%20Coping%20with%20School%20Closures](https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/coping-school-closures-during-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Coping%20with%20School%20Closure&utm_content=Coping%20with%20School%20Closures%20CID_2c035826c8f20438801859518aa83bf0&utm_source=Paths%20to%20Literacy%20Newsletter&utm_term=More%20on%20Coping%20with%20School%20Closures)
- Free Distance Learning through Hadley School for the Blind and Instructional Videos: <https://www.hadley.edu/>
- Explore Podcasts and YouTube options. Cooking classes, gardening, technology instruction for people who are blind and so much more can be found by exploring.

5. We know this time can be frightening for people and especially for kids. Know that there are resources for ideas on how to talk with your children about what is going on with COVID-19 and why social distancing is important.
  - From the National Child Traumatic Stress Network:  
[https://www.nctsn.org/resources/parent-caregiver-guide-to-helping-families-cope-with-the-coronavirus-disease-2019?fbclid=IwAR1-2FlagGngGvrbgbLZOHF1R24iRXIA\\_ysMrArW-g7dmyVow5L4DbnJL-Y](https://www.nctsn.org/resources/parent-caregiver-guide-to-helping-families-cope-with-the-coronavirus-disease-2019?fbclid=IwAR1-2FlagGngGvrbgbLZOHF1R24iRXIA_ysMrArW-g7dmyVow5L4DbnJL-Y)
  - From the Fred Rogers Center: [https://scontent.fric1-2.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/s960x960/90299057\\_10158251500693069\\_5055914726370836480\\_o.jpg?\\_nc\\_cat=111&\\_nc\\_sid=8024bb&\\_nc\\_ohc=cU01LFP6c8AX-2XkKo&\\_nc\\_ht=scontent.fric1-2.fna&\\_nc\\_tp=7&oh=2095339585ad0148dd5d10602190f016&oe=5E93B19A](https://scontent.fric1-2.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/s960x960/90299057_10158251500693069_5055914726370836480_o.jpg?_nc_cat=111&_nc_sid=8024bb&_nc_ohc=cU01LFP6c8AX-2XkKo&_nc_ht=scontent.fric1-2.fna&_nc_tp=7&oh=2095339585ad0148dd5d10602190f016&oe=5E93B19A)
6. Our Blind, Visual Impairment and Deaf-Blind Family Specialist is working with our community of parents who have a child who is blind or has a visual disability to coordinate virtual meetings for parents and youth. If you are interested in participating please send an email to [peiferdm@vcu.edu](mailto:peiferdm@vcu.edu)

Do you have a family member in the state of VA with a disability? Do you need support? Young or aging, we at CFI are here to support you. Free. Please email: [cfihelpline@vcu.edu](mailto:cfihelpline@vcu.edu) or leave a message on our helpline and someone will get back to you within 48 hours (877) 567-1122

Stay connected with our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CenterforFamilyInvolvement/>