



Shaw Middle School | ABLE Newsletter

Week of 5/4/20

Hello ABLE families,

Good morning. I hope everyone has had a restful weekend and had a chance to enjoy some of the sunshine we've had. Last week, everyone should have received a phone communication from myself or Mr. McCullough as we have been busy shaping learning plans to move forward from now until the end of the school year. We have sent materials home to you and you should be receiving them in the agreed upon mode, bus delivery or email. Please, communicate with us if you have any questions or concerns as we want to support you in the best way possible. Please, also make us aware if an activity we sent home to you is not working, we can tweak it and change it as necessary. On the other hand, please let us know if any particular activity has worked well and was enjoyed by you and your student.

You should also have received or soon should receive the invite to our first zoom class on Tuesday at ten AM. We will be meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. We are looking forward to getting to see our students and interact with them again.

Mr. Olson and Mr. McCullough



Recap

- Watch for weekly activity plans and materials being delivered. Follow them to the best of your ability.
- Please inform us on what is working and what is not working, so we can continue to create meaningful activities for each student.
- Zoom meetings will be Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00am



Reminders

- **Mr. McCullough and Mr. Olson will be calling this week to set up Learning Plans with you.**
- **Safety** and health of you and your child are our first priority. All work provided to you is encouraged but not mandatory. For many students, work demands are quite a challenge and a trigger. Do what is best for you and your family and most importantly, be safe!
- If you need printed materials rather than having them emailed, Durham bus drivers can drop materials for your student at your residence. Talk with your child's teacher to set this up.



Tips for working with children with autism

- **Avoid sensory overload - It is very easy for students to get distracted. Keep your environment as free of distractions as possible.**
- **Use visuals when possible – Using visuals and modeling what you want your child to do often is more successful than a lengthy explanation. Keep things concrete and simple.**
- **Be predictable – Use a schedule to plan activities/work demands**
- **Use the Premack Principle – First “math” then “student choice of activity/free time”**
- **Familiarize yourself with token economy – Many students in our classes were successful completing work demands when they had a clear beginning and end. We often used tokens to deliver reinforcement for positive behaviors. When students earned 5 tokens during a work session the work session was done, and they exchanged their 5 tokens for a 10-15-minute free time activity. Tokens are also a good way to communicate non-verbally with the individual how close they are to being done with the task.**

Resources:

- [Conscious Discipline, COVID 19: Resources for Families and Educators](#)
- [Special Education Technology Center \(SETC\)](#)
- [Spokane Schools Sped services during COVID 19](#)
- [Do it yourself ABA based lessons for families](#)
- [Autism Speaks - How to handle closures for children with autism](#)
- [Autism Speaks \(info for families\)](#)
- [Token Economy Information](#)
- [Discrete Trial Training explanation and demo](#)

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