

Shaw Middle School | ABLE Newsletter

4/15/2020

Hello ABLE families,

We hope you and your family are continuing to stay safe and healthy during this challenging time. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather we have had over the break. As I'm sure everyone is aware, Governor Inslee has made the decision to close down schools in Washington for the remainder of the school year. This decision is not ideal in anyway for us and has left many questions unanswered as of right now. While we wait for guidance from OSPI on navigating challenges presented with service delivery, Mr. Olson and I want to ensure you that we will do our absolute best to support you and your child. We are all in this together!



Recap

By now all families should have received work packets in the mail from Mr. Olson or Mr. McCullough. The materials contained in these packets should be tailored to your student's IEP goals. In addition to these packets, all students have access to online learning programs such as MobyMax, Khan Academy, and ABCmouse. If you are having login problems please contact your child's teacher and they will assist you in fixing the issue. Mr. Olson and I understand the many challenges of new online learning and want to let you know we are new to this as well. It will take patience and teamwork to get thru these next few months.



Reminders

- [Spokaneschools.org](https://spokaneschools.org) has the latest updates regarding distance learning. Please remember to check the website on a semi-frequent basis.
- Safety and health of you and your child are our first priority. All work provided to you are optional resources. 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!
- Teachers are required to continue to work. That means we are available to you. If you need any materials, have any questions, or need to troubleshoot an issue please reach out to us via email or phone. We check our messages often.



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.

Online Resources:

- [Special Education Technology Center \(SETC\)](#)
- [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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