

School's Closed! Now What?

School's closed and you're probably wondering: 'Now What?' One of the most important things to consider at this time is well-being: both your own and that of the young people around you. To keep them occupied (and maybe learning a bit) we've compiled a bunch of fun activities to do around the home. If you want to turn these activities into formal learning, there are ideas at the bottom of the page.



Keeping connected is important at times like this, so try to make a regular time to check in with friends and classmates using something like Zoom, Google Meet, or Youtube Live. See how they are, and share what you and your child(ren) have been doing.

Share this resource: <https://bit.ly/schoolsclosedhelp>

Fun activities to do at home:

1. Read. Read everything. Magazines, books, newspapers. Find physical books, or use resources like [Storytime](#) or public library ebook services. Some services don't require an eBook reader; they work on any device. Free eBooks for [ages 3-5](#), [ages 9-12](#), [for teens](#).
2. Write. Keep a journal of daily life during the shutdown. What is happening at home, nationally and internationally? Write letters to family members or friends.
3. Write a [wellbeing plan](#) for the family: think about device use, exercise, mental health and the wellbeing of others. What do we need to be aware of at the moment?
4. Learn to programme: complete some of the activities at [Hour of Code](#).
5. Bake a loaf of bread, a cake or some biscuits.
6. Run your own Masterchef or Ready Steady Cook competition. A mystery box challenge!
7. Plan and cook dinner for the family. Make menus and table settings from materials you have around the home. Dress up and have a feast!
8. Make a short film of only 5 shots using a mobile phone or tablet. Solve a mystery or tell a story.
9. Interview a family member over the phone about something that is important to them.
10. Do daily exercises on [Go Noodle](#).
11. Play a board game or complete a jigsaw puzzle.
12. Play [classic arcade games](#) online.
13. Play a card game.
14. Build [a rubber band catapult](#).
15. Plant a vegetable or flower garden.

16. Do a science experiment like one from [Nanogirl's 100 Days project](#).
17. Make [a one-point perspective drawing](#) of a room in your house.
18. [Regrow vegetables from scraps](#).
19. Clean your room, the car or a bike. Clean the bathroom! Clean the toilet! Clean everything!
20. Take a virtual tour: [Google Arts and Culture, museums](#).
21. Try a yoga or exercise class on Youtube.
22. Grab a tape measure and create a map of your backyard.
23. Learn a magic or card trick. Pick a card! Any card!
24. Make a video game using [Gamefroot](#).
25. Learn a foreign language using tools like [Duolingo](#).
26. Find a penpal (cousin, friend of the family) in another town or country and email them. What's life like for them? What can they see out the window? You could also join the community [PenPal Schools - A Global Project-Based Learning Community](#)
27. Play [old-skool games](#) at home.
28. Make fruit ice blocks.
29. Build a town in Minecraft.
30. Use a timelapse app to film sunrise, sunset or something that is moving.
31. Do a crossword puzzle or word-find each day.
32. Write secret messages [using different codes](#).
33. Try a riddle a day: [riddles.com](#), [brainden.com](#).
34. Make a comic strip using something like [Pixton.com](#).
35. Keep up to date with [KiwiKids News](#) - write your own article.
36. Take a [museum tour](#).
37. [Kupu o te rā](#): learn a new word each day.
38. [Science in a Van](#): subscribe & tune in for their daily show (12.45pm NZ time on YouTube).

Fun activities to do out of the home

These activities require venturing out into the neighbourhood, so obviously require you to consider safe physical distancing.

39. Make a walking tour around your neighbourhood. Use a theme to make it more interesting: nature, water, community buildings, bridges etc. Share it with a friend so they can do the tour with their family.
40. Take a dog for a walk. If you don't have a dog, borrow one!
41. Ride a bike, scooter or skateboard.

If you want to turn these fun activities into formal learning...

Here are some suggestions for each of the ideas listed above.

1. Introduce the idea of [genre](#), and encourage kids to read a range of different genres: sci-fi, comedy, mystery...
2. Write: the journal entry can include particular challenges: use descriptive language, use a metaphor, use a recount.
3. Present your plan to the family in the form of a persuasive speech explaining why your wellbeing plan should be adopted by everyone in the family.
4. Complete [one of the courses](#) on the Code.org site.
5. Halve or double the quantities to work on maths skills. Or make a cake that is exactly 1.25x the size listed in the recipe book. Do all the calculations.
6. Put together a mystery box challenge that shows your understanding of nutrition or [5+ a day](#).
7. Research cuisine from different countries. Plan a meal that reflects one of those cultures. Research nutrition and [5+ a day](#). Make one change to your meal to make it healthier.
8. Use a [wide shot, mid shot and close up](#) in your film.
9. Write up your interview as a [newspaper article](#).
10. Choose a favourite song and make your own Go Noodle sequence to share with others.
11. Make your own board game.
12. Use Gamefroot or Scratch to create your own version of a classic arcade game.
13. Try [a card game that helps with maths](#).
14. Change some variables with your catapult to see how far it can launch a soft projectile (be safe!) Consider the number of rubber bands, the length of the arm etc.
15. Use your knowledge of 5+ a day to plant the garden. Research companion planting and use that to guide you. Research growing times and arrange your garden accordingly.
16. Devise your own science experiment to test an idea.
17. Draw [a two-point perspective](#). Start with something simple like a cube, then move on to furniture or a room.
18. Predict which vegetables will regrow and which won't. After a week, test your predictions.
19. [Make your own cleaning products](#).
20. Make [your own virtual tour](#).
21. Find a set of yoga or exercise videos that work out particular parts of the body: arms, legs, torso etc.

22. Use a scale to convert the real-world measurements into a map: 1:100 or 1:250. [Add a treasure hunt](#).
23. Write a set of instructions to teach someone else a magic trick or card trick.
24. Complete some of the activities in [Te Hiko Takaro](#) (Gamefroot's tutorial site).
25. Script a short conversation in a foreign language. Imagine someone is ordering lunch or catching public transport.
26. Select your age group, and topic you are interested in, and start writing. Currently, there is free access, via your parents.
27. Write a set of instructions that another person can use to play one of your old skool games.
28. Predict whether a fruit ice block will freeze faster or more slowly than water. Devise an experiment that will test your theory.
29. Complete [one or more challenges](#) in Minecraft
30. Use your time-lapse sequence in a short film; tell the story of someone waiting or imagining something.
31. Write [your own crossword](#) for someone else to solve.
32. Invent your own cipher and send a message to someone. Give them a clue to see if they can solve it.
33. Write your own riddle and see if a family member can work it out.
34. Create a comic strip that explains a concept or teaches someone something.
35. Write your own article for KiwiKids News
36. Create an 'outdoor museum' of your local area. What are the key historical or cultural sites a visitor should see? Write a short description or explanation of each site you choose for your 'museum'
37. Use the kupu of the day in a sentence.
38. Record your own science experiment and share it with others. Choose one from [Nanogirl's 100 Days project](#) or other science for kids sites.

Fun activities to do out of the home:

39. Use Google Maps to estimate the total distance of your walking tour. Use <https://mymaps.google.com/> to share it with others.
40. Build an obstacle course for the dog.
41. Use Google Maps to plan a bike/skateboard/scooter journey of exactly 1km, 2km, or 3km.

Websites to help with reading, writing and mathematics

If you want your child to keep up with formal learning, you can use sites like these.

- [Reading Eggs](#) (30-day free trial)
- [Learn with Homer](#) (Free trial)

- [Adventure Academy](#) (Paid)
- [Mathletics](#) (Paid)
- [StudyLadder](#) (Basic and paid plans)
- [Prodigy Game](#) (Free, with paid premium features)
- [ReadTheory](#) (Free)
- [Khan Academy](#) (Free)
- Learn Coding with [Lightbot](#) (Free)
- [Educational Science Websites](#) (Various)
- [Kahoot!](#) (Quiz website)