

THE QUARANTIMES

by Aunt Katie's Place
www.auntkatiesplace.com

Your kids are home... for who knows how long?! Just breathe - we've got you covered!

Friday, April 3, 2020

www.auntkatiesplace.com

Issue 3; 7 Pages

In This Issue:

Fun Fitness Activities p. 1

Free Online Learning Resources p. 2-3

For Art, Science, Fitness, and Reading

E-Book Recommendations From Ashe Library p. 4

Aunt Katie's Book Of The Week p. 5

Easter During Quarantine p. 6-7

Ideas to virtually connect with your relatives and make a quarantined Easter a fun Easter!

Fun Fitness Activities

You're kids don't need technology to burn off energy! Here are some fun and simple ideas to get them moving!

Your kids don't need technology to burn off energy! So we've compiled a few fun ideas to get them moving!

1. Fitness "War" - most children already know how to play the card game "war", so let's up the ante and get fitness involved! Decide what each suit will be worth (hearts = jumping jacks, spades = push ups, clubs = sit ups, diamonds = squats) and give face cards an independent value (aces = 10 burpees, kings = 10 lunges, etc.). Now let's play war! Loser of each round must perform the number of exercises on the winner's card. When you lose a "war" you must perform all 5 exercises from the winner's hand. Can your kids make it through a whole deck of cards?

2. Obstacle Course - this may mess up your house, but it will tire out your kids! Use couch cushions, chairs, the kitchen table... whatever you can find! Set up an obstacle course that includes hopping, balancing, rolling, and crawling. Get all their muscles working! See how quickly they can complete 3 rounds through the course.

3. Fitness Four Square - draw your four square with chalk, but then break each square into 4 smaller colored squares. Designate an action for each color (blue=sit ups, green=jumping jacks, red=lunges, yellow=push ups) and then let's play four square! As you play four square, if you miss a ball or hit a line, you must perform the action of the color 5 times before re-entering the game!

What are some of the fun ways your kids keeping active during quarantine? ✨

Thanks for reading

The QUARANTIMES!

by Aunt Katie's Place

Does your child have a funny quarantine story, photo, or drawing they'd like to share? Send it our way and it may get featured in an issue of "The QUARANTIMES"!
auntkatie@auntkatiesplace.com

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

Art, Theatre, Music, Science, Math, Fitness, Reading... nothing is off limits!

Art/Theatre Activities

Get your kids' creativity going!



#DrawTogether

Instagram Live

Weekdays 1:00 pm EST, 10:00 am PST

by Wendy MacNaughton

@wendymac

<https://www.instagram.com/wendymac/>

"NYT bestselling Illustrator/friendly quarantine art teacher! Draw Together with WendyMac."
- from the @wendymac Instagram page.



30 Days Of Art With Miss Lanker

On Demand Lessons

<https://sites.google.com/dps61.net/misslanker/home>

"The goal of 30 Days of Art is to encourage creative thinking and fine motor skills through art... much of this outreach is based within what I teach to my students but can be adapted for almost any age, within reason." - from the 30 Days Of Art website.



Activity Hero

Facebook Live

Schedule changes weekly

@ActivityHero

https://www.activityhero.com/biz/activityhero-live?aht_cam=social&aht_src=fb

<https://www.facebook.com/ActivityHero/>

Different art activities every week. Check their schedule and register for the ones you want!

Science Activities

Exploring the world... while indoors!



It's Okay To Be Smart

On demand YouTube videos

<https://www.youtube.com/user/itsokaytobesmart/>

"Joe Hanson, Ph.D. is a curious group of atoms in a curious universe, and he's here to tell you how it all works." - from the It's Okay To Be Smart YouTube channel.



Kursgesagt - In A Nutshell

On demand YouTube videos

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Kurzgesagt>

"Videos explaining things with optimistic nihilism. We are a small team who want to make science look beautiful. Because it is beautiful." - from the Kursgesagt YouTube channel.



Science Kids

Experiments, games, facts, quizzes, videos, and more!

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/>

"Science Kids is the online home of science & technology for children around the world. Learn more with our fun science experiments, cool facts, free games, activities, lesson plans, quizzes, videos, photos and science fair project ideas." - from the Science Kids website.



Science Activities and Experiments

Grades pre-k through 5th

<https://www.education.com/activity/science/>

Science activities and worksheets specialized for each grade from pre-k through 5th!

Fitness Activities

Let's release your kids' pent up energy!



Fitness Dances

On demand YouTube videos

by Derek Blyzwick

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCejNDhgi9I-N9AIB5EJcEog/videos>

Derek and his wife are PE teachers. They make silly dance fitness videos for kids to follow along and get a workout!



Pre-K Exercise/Dancing Classes

Facebook Live

Monday - Friday 9:30 am EST

by Sunny Place Preschool Center

<https://www.facebook.com/SUNNY-PLACE-Preschool-Center-413120902571348/>

"Join me together with your kids for 15-20 minutes online exercise/dancing class every day Monday-Friday. I'm sure that now during social distancing times it will be a great possibility for all our community to feel connected with each other by doing something fun altogether at the same time." - from the Sunny Place Facebook page.



BOKS At Home Workouts

Facebook Live and downloadable activities

Monday - Friday 12:00 pm EST

@boks

<https://www.bokskids.org/boks-at-home/>
<https://www.facebook.com/boks/>

"With many schools being closed and kids at home, BOKS will share as many games and activities as possible to keep kids active and happy during this difficult time. ." - from the BOKS Kids website.

Reading Activities

Reading is fuel for the brain!



Puffin Books YouTube Channel

On demand videos

Stories read by famous actors/musicians

<https://www.youtube.com/user/puffinbooks1>

"Puffin Books is the home to all your favourite characters and authors, from Wimpy Kid to Roald Dahl. Find out about all the amazing books and hear from the authors here on our channel!" - from the Puffin Books YouTube channel.



Mac's Book Club Show:

Picture Books

Monday - Friday at 12:00 pm

Live Cartoons

Saturday's at 12:00 pm

Chapter Books After Dark Every day

by Mac Barnett

<https://www.instagram.com/macbarnett/>

Children's book author, Mac Barnett, reads some of his bestselling books live on Instagram throughout the week! He also collaborates with artist Shawn Harris to post a 'live cartoon' on Saturday's.



Goodnight with Dolly

YouTube Live Thursdays 7:00 pm EDT

by Dolly Parton

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/goodnight-with-dolly/>

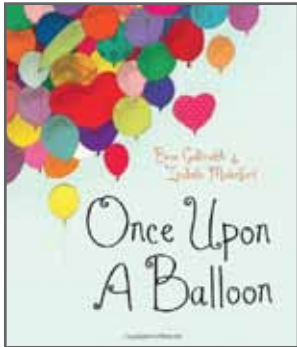
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0MpwxxTbrBOz1g1X-BynUA>

"Everyone's favorite Book Lady is bringing children and families everywhere just what they need during a time of unrest. Goodnight with Dolly is a 10-week special series of weekly videos featuring Dolly Parton reading select Imagination Library books." - from the Imagination Library website.

Good E-Book Reads

Recommended by Ashlin Edmisten,
Youth Services Manager for Ashe County Public Library

Picture Book



Once Upon A Balloon

by Bree Galbraith

"Theo is brokenhearted when he accidentally lets go of the string of his

party balloon. As he watches it float out of sight, Theo wonders where his balloon might have gone. Luckily, his older brother Zeke knows everything about everything... he tells Theo about Frank, who is responsible for collecting all the balloons in the world. Theo is so touched by Frank's story that he decides to send him a message of hope the only way he knows how."

Beginning Chapter Book

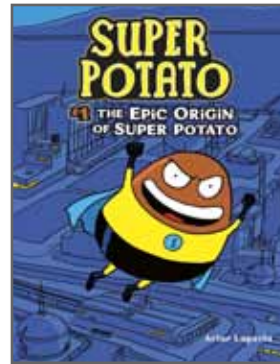


Where's Leopold: Your Pajamas Are Showing!

by Michel-Yves Schmitt

"What if you woke up one morning and could turn invisible? Would you fight crime? Save the world? If you're like Leopold, you'd rather play tricks on your big sister and steal her caramels! But being invisible isn't all it's cracked up to be. Leopold can make his body disappear, but not his clothes. How will he pull his pranks with his pajamas showing? Is he brave enough to play his tricks in the nude? Maybe the right magic word is all he needs!

Advanced Chapter Book



The Epic Origin Of Super Potato

by Artur Laperla

Yay for Graphic Novels!

"Super Max has it all.

He's a superhero with a flashy uniform and a great head of hair. Sure, sometimes the evil Dr. Malevolent pops up to cause trouble. But Super Max has defeated the villain over and over again.

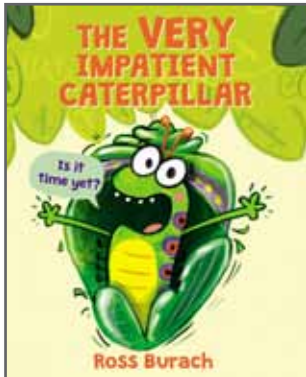
This time is different. This time, Dr. Malevolent's plan works . . . and he turns the handsome hero into a tiny tuber! But there's one thing the doctor didn't count on. The potato still has powers, and justice takes many forms. Super Max may be gone . . . but it's Super Potato's time to fly!"

Free digital resources from your local library!

Did you know that your local library has a whole slew of digital content you can access from home? Your library card unlocks a whole world of e-books, videos, language learning applications... all for FREE! Don't have a library card? Well, you have two easy options: 1) you can apply for a library card online - visit your local library's website and look for the online application. If you can't find it - contact them! They should have that information easily accessible, and if it's not, they need to know so they can fix it! Or 2) most public schools have an agreement with their public libraries to allow a child's student school ID to be useable as a library card number. Check your local library's website for more details! And, again, if you can't find the information - contact them! ✨

Aunt Katie's Pick Of The Week

I LOVE picture books! And I love sharing my favorites with you! This week it is...



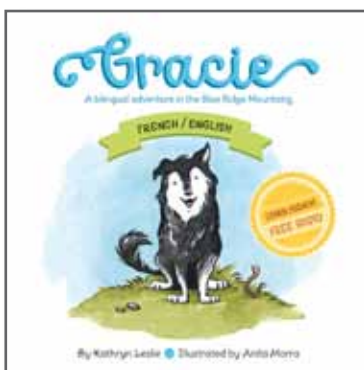
The Very Impatient Caterpillar

by Ross Burach

"HEY! What are you guys doing? ... We're going to metamorphose ... Meta-WHAT-now? ..."

Transform into butterflies ... Right. Right. I knew that ... WAIT?! You're telling me I can become a BUTTERFLY? ... Yes ... With wings? ... Yes ... Wait for ME!!"

I love this hilarious book about an impatient caterpillar that can't wait to break out of his chrysalis to become something new! It's great for teaching about butterflies, but it's also a great resource to talk about patience and trying to find things to pass the time while we wait to grow up, or get out of quarantine!



Gracie: A bilingual adventure in the Blue Ridge Mountains

by Kathryn Leslie

I absolutely love this story about a sweet

dog searching for friendship in the Appalachian Mountains. I am excited that it comes in three different languages (Spanish/English, French/English, and German/English) and I adore the free audio versions. Of course, I'm a little biased since I wrote and published the book myself... but hey, it's a great book! Why don't you see for yourself? Available at Aunt Katie's Place, Amazon, and Barnesandnoble.com

QUARANTINE IS A GREAT TIME TO LEARN A SECOND LANGUAGE!

Check out the

LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES

AT AUNT KATIE'S PLACE!

Available in Spanish, French, and German
www.auntkatiesplace.com

DID YOU KNOW?

That all books purchased from Aunt Katie's Place are signed by the author and come with this awesome bookmark?
www.auntkatiesplace.com/shop



FREE

VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISIT!

Would you like Aunt Katie to do a virtual author visit with your school or public library? Let your librarian know! During quarantine, virtual author visits are totally free!

Have your school or public librarian contact Aunt Katie at auntkatie@auntkatiesplace.com for more information!

Easter During Quarantine

Connecting with your relatives and making things festive might be difficult, but it's not impossible!

For some of you, this Easter may look a little different than your last Easter! No extended family gatherings, no neighborhood egg hunts, and limited groceries and supplies. But don't fret! Easter is a time to celebrate new life, and we can still do that with our extended family, with fun activities, and with decorative food... it just may take a little tweaking.

For those of you that will be missing your extended families, there are lots of free options out there to connect! There are several **free video chat options** available that allow **for multiple participants** to join in at the same time. Check out the list below:

1. Apple Facetime - video chat up to 32 people; on Mac/iOS products;
<https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/make-a-group-facetime-call-iph405ab67de/ios>

2. Zoom - video chat up to 100 people; Mac, Windows, iOS, Android
<https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2015/05/27/top-3-zoomer-q-a/>

3. Skype - video chat up to 50 people; Mac, Windows, iOS, Android
<https://support.skype.com/en/faq/FA34926/what-is-meet-now-and-how-do-i-use-it-in-skype>

4. WhatsApp - video chat up to 16 people; iOS, Android
<https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/android/26000026/>

5. Facebook Messenger - video chat up to 8 people; Mac, Windows, iOS, Android
<https://www.facebook.com/help/messenger-app/1414800065460231?helpref=topq>

6. Google Hangouts - video chat up to 10 people; Mac, Windows, iOS, Android
<https://support.google.com/hangouts/answer/3111943?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>

Once you've got yourself set up on a video chat, then what to do? How can you make Easter special for your large family while communicating over video chat? There are several **fun games you can play while video chatting** that can help to make your Easter memorable.

1. Bingo - you can make your own bingo cards at home. Use a simple writing/editing program such as Canva (www.canva.com), Microsoft Word, or Google Docs and create your bingo cards. Then share, via email, the different cards with your relatives. They can have them printed and ready to go for the big event! Write all the clues on little strips and place them inside plastic Easter eggs. Mix the eggs together in an Easter basket and let one of the kiddos pick them out and call out the letters!

2. Pictionary - divide your virtual guests into teams. If you are using a desktop, you can use the white board feature in Zoom or share your screen in Skype to draw directly on your screen. If you are using a mobile device (phone or tablet), you can reverse the camera to face your paper while you draw. Have all your virtual guests use an online word generator, such as Game Gal, to make sure that gameplay stays fair! <https://www.thegamegal.com/word-generator/>

3. Charades - this one is very easy to do through the computer. Divide your virtual guests into teams and use an online word generator, such as Game Gal, which gives specific charade words to act out! <https://www.thegamegal.com/word-generator/>

4. Scattergories - for this game, you'll either need to come up with your own prompts

or use the original lists found here: <http://scattergorieslists18.blogspot.com/> Then you'll need to use a random letter generator (see below) and set yourself a timer for each round. Easy peasy!

<https://randomwordgenerator.com/letter.php>

If your kids are super bummed about not doing a neighborhood egg hunt, there are plenty of other **non-virtual exciting activities you can do inside!** I've listed a few below:

1. Scavenger hunt for Easter baskets - hide the Easter baskets somewhere that is not visible. Write the hiding place on a piece of paper and cut it into strips so that only one letter is on each strip of paper. Put the strips into plastic Easter eggs and hide the eggs around your house, making sure they are somewhat visible. Make sure to tell the kids how many eggs there are in total. After they find all the eggs, they'll need to unscramble all the letters to discover the location of their Easter baskets!

2. Egg painting - egg painting is a classic, but if you are unable to get ahold of egg dye, then you can still use household materials to decorate your eggs! Crayons, sharpies, acrylic paint, glue with glitter... all of these can make gorgeous eggs! Have a friendly competition with your relatives to decorate eggs with whatever craft supplies they have and see who makes the most creative egg! Make sure to post pictures of your eggs and tag @auntkatie'splace

3. "Egg" hunt - if you'd like to do an egg hunt, but you weren't able to secure any plastic eggs before the stores closed, don't fret! You can easily do something similar, and possibly more fun, with wrapping paper. Find some extra tissue or wrapping paper, place the candy in the middle of small square of paper (3"x3" is plenty) pull all the corners up to the center and tie it closed with some ribbon. Adorable! You can also fill each one with a coin instead of candy. Then you can use the opportunity to help your younger kids

learn the value of each coin and count how much money they found!

You can also make Easter really special for your kids by being **creative with their food.** Challenge your relatives to make the most creative food displays and then share them with each other via pictures or over your virtual gathering. There are lots of simple ideas on Google, such as **bunnies made from Uncrustable sandwiches**, and adorable baby **chicks made from deviled eggs and from cheese and crackers.** Just get creative with what you have!



Photo by Aunt Katie, April 2020

The other day I decided to practice my fun Easter meals and made my niece a mama bunny and baby bunny for lunch. The mama bunny has a grilled cheese body with apple ears, strawberry bow, banana eyes, Colby Jack cheese cheeks and whiskers and a strawberry nose. The baby bunny is made of banana pieces except for two apple seeds as the eyes. She loved it! I'm sure whatever you come up with will be way more creative than mine! ✨