

September Newsletter



"The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings."

– Henry Ward Beecher

5 Tips for Ensuring a Positive Remote Learning Experience for Your Kids

Source: education.jhu.edu

September is usually the time for children everywhere to head back to school. But as the coronavirus pandemic continues to upend various areas of life, countless schools are opting to resume classes via remote learning. While this “new normal” can be challenging for parents and kids alike, remote learning also offers some opportunities that kids may not experience in the classroom.

If your children are embarking on a new school year with remote learning, here are five tips that may help them get the most out of the experience:

- Maintain frequent communication with your children’s teachers. Different schedules and curricula are more effective for different kids depending on their ages, learning styles, and unique needs. For example, older children can generally handle longer screen time sessions than younger kids, who learn more effectively through play and interaction. Additionally, some kids respond better to real-time classes guided by a live instructor, while others may prefer working independently with the resources provided. Identifying what works best for your kids and staying in contact with their teachers will help you tailor lesson plans to create the most constructive experience possible.
- Encourage kids to stay active. One benefit that kids may enjoy when learning from home rather than in the classroom is the ability to be more active, taking regular breaks for exercise and play or standing up while learning, if they prefer. Ensure that your kids are taking advantage of this opportunity and keeping active throughout the day.
- Tackle difficult topics at times when your child is most focused. Another advantage of remote learning is that it provides greater flexibility in tailoring your children’s school schedules to their natural tendencies and preferences. For example, if your kids aren’t “morning people” but seem more energized in the afternoon, save difficult topics for later in the day. If they tend to feel burnt out by the end of the week, block out Fridays for more fun or creative activities!
- Give yourselves a break. For most families, the transition to remote learning is a major life change that has been stressful for kids and parents alike. It’s normal to feel overwhelmed by the responsibility of helping your kids stay on top of their schoolwork every day, and for your kids to feel frustrated and disengaged at times. When this happens, remind yourself that it’s ok to slow down the pace, revisit a challenging lesson later, or even take the day off until you’re ready to return with a renewed focus.



Rosemary Flatbread with Blue Cheese, Grapes, and Honey

foodandwine.com

Ingredients:

- 1 envelope active dry yeast
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cups bread flour, plus more for rolling
- 3/4 cup warm water
- 2 teaspoons chopped rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon fine salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- Coarse sea salt
- 3 ounces blue cheese, crumbled (1/2 cup)
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon snipped chives

Directions:

- In a large bowl, whisk the yeast and sugar with 1/4 cup of the flour. Stir in 1/4 cup of the warm water and let stand until slightly foamy, about 5 minutes. Add the rosemary, fine salt, pepper and the remaining 1 3/4 cups of flour and 1/2 cup of water; stir until a dough forms. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead until smooth, about 5 minutes. Transfer the dough to an oiled bowl, cover and let rise in a draft-free spot until billowy and doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.
- Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 450°. Place a pizza stone in the bottom of the oven, and preheat for at least 30 minutes.
- Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface. Press and stretch the dough into a 13-inch round, then transfer to a lightly floured pizza peel. Press the grapes into the dough and sprinkle with sea salt.
- Slide the flatbread onto the hot stone and bake for about 12 minutes, until the crust is golden and the grapes have begun to release some of their juices. Sprinkle the blue cheese on top and bake for about 2 minutes longer, until the cheese melts. Slide the flatbread onto a work surface and drizzle with the honey and sprinkle with the chives. Cut into wedges and serve.



How to Create an Outdoor Living Space That Will Boost Your Home's Appeal to Buyers

Source: blog.rexhomes.com

When selling your home, you likely make it a priority to ensure that the front entrance and interior rooms shine. But as buyers in different price ranges and geographical areas increasingly value functional outdoor living spaces, it's important to invest in your home's exterior—whether you have a small patio, a sprawling yard, or anything in between.

As you get ready to showcase your home to potential buyers, here are a few ideas for creating an enticing outdoor living space:

- Tidy up. Before adding anything to your outdoor space, the first step is to make sure that the landscaping is clean and tidy. Taking simple maintenance steps before a showing or photo shoot—such as washing the patio and any furniture, spreading fresh mulch in the garden, and removing leaves, dead plants, cobwebs, and other debris—will give your home a quick but noticeable boost.
- Create a welcoming ambience. Elements like lighting, plants, and water features can help transform your yard into an outdoor oasis. For example, use solar-powered spotlights to illuminate landscaping and walkways, hang bistro lights over seating areas to instantly create a warm and romantic flair, or purchase a small fountain to add soothing sounds.
- Stage an entertaining area. Adding an outdoor dining table and setting it with plates, candles, and flowers prior to a showing will not only make your yard feel inviting, but will also instantly expand your home's living space. In addition, setting up a recreational area with comfortable seating and lawn games will help boost your yard's usability.
- Add colorful accents. Inexpensive items like pillows, rugs, and flowers can be used to provide an eye-catching splash of color and make your outdoor living space feel like a complete room where buyers will be able to picture themselves relaxing with friends and family.



If you are currently working with another Broker please do not consider this a solicitation.

