

Tips for Teachers

Communicating During Remote Learning

Communication with students, their families, and caregivers looks very different during this time of remote learning. We know not all children are safe at home. As a reminder, YOU are mandated by law to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Here are some questions and talking points that may help you check in on the well-being of your students, their families and their caregivers.

Routine Check In

- How are you feeling today?
- How was your night?
- How can I help you today?
- Who is home to help you with learning today?
- How are you doing with our new way of learning?
- What has been working well?
- What has not been working well?
- What fun things do you have planned today?
- What else would you like to share with me today?

Observations and Responses

- I know you like to _____, have you been able to keep up with it?
- I've noticed that you have been struggling to focus/participate during class/video time, how can I help you with that?
- I'm hearing some other noises in the background, what else is happening at your house today?
- I saw a younger/older person walk by your screen, who is home with you today?



MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Department of Children and Families Child-at-Risk Hotline:
(800) 792-5200

Information adapted from our friends at the Granite State Children's Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT MACHILDRENSALLIANCE.ORG

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Wellness

- What did you have for breakfast? lunch? dinner?
- What have you been doing inside/outside during the day?
- What is the best part about your day?
- What do you like about being home from school?
- What do you miss about not going to school?
- What have you been doing for exercise?
- How is your family? Is there anything that you or your family need during this time?
- I know you and _____ are friends, have you been able to keep in touch with each other?
- Have you been able to talk to other family members or friends? How are they doing?
- How are you sleeping? Are you getting enough sleep?

Reassurance and Validation

- Acknowledge this new way of learning feels different and that you will get through this time together
- Send positive notes through remote learning sites or mail
- Compliment your students on work they've completed
- Cite specific pieces of work to help motivate your students continues effort in remote learning
- Share that you miss teaching and that you are thinking about the students and their families
- Share some things that have helped you during this time



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When to be concerned and when to report to DCF

Call DCF When:

- You've made multiple, documented attempts to reach a student/family/caregiver and they have gone unanswered/ignored, and all opportunities to make contact (i.e., phone calls, email, reaching out to emergency contacts, ect) have been exhausted.
- The student is truant/missing from their school programming (i.e., not participating in remote learning, attending/participating in their academic programming, after multiple, documented attempts to engage the student/family/caregiver) and attempts to provide resources (i.e., internet access, computer support, paper materials, etc.) have been ignored.
- You've noticed unexplained bruising, welts, cuts, or other injuries on a child, adult, or caregiver.
- The child presents drastically different from how they have in the past (i.e., significant weight loss, change in hygiene, behaviorally aggressive, dressed, despondent, ect.).
- You believe the child, adult, or caregiver is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- If you saw or it was reported to you that there are illicit drugs/paraphernalia or other hazards that create safety concerns in the home (i.e., weapons within reach).
- There is an outcry of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

If You Suspect Abuse or Neglect

call the Department of Children and Families Child-at-Risk Hotline at (800) 792-5200.

For Immediate Concerns, Dial 911

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