



Each week, MAEC's Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) Center, in collaboration with Turning the Page, curates resources on how families can educate children at home, enjoy "out-of-school" time, cope with this new normal, and plan for the next school year. If you are a parent advocate or educator, and know families who could benefit from this information, please share it and help spread the word.

## THE FAMILY ROOM

### **Join us in the Family Room**

**Thursday, July 16, 3pm ET**

**This week in the Family Room we learn how we, as humans, are living history and the ways we continue to create it.**

We are pleased to be joined by Dr. Chris Williams from the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#), a museum that seeks to understand American history through the lens of the African American experience. Dr. Chris Williams will help us reflect on how history and STEM practices and principles can be integrated every day.

This webinar will also feature the **Question Corner** with child psychologist, Dr. Seth Shaffer\*, and education

expert, Mariela Puentes.

Did you miss the last webinar? [Check it out now.](#)

[Register now](#)

## Ask Dr. Shaffer



Each week Dr. Shaffer answers questions on the website that readers like you submit. This week:

**How do I help my children prepare for virtual learning or a “hybrid” (in person-virtual blended) learning approach when they go back to school in the fall?**

There is much uncertainty about what the new school year will look like this fall and there are no easy solutions. State departments of education and local educational agencies are working diligently to develop plans that are safe for your children. The goal will be to reduce risk as much as possible. Given these circumstances, all of us need to be prepared to manage this new “normal” of schooling.

[Read more](#)

Do you have questions for Dr. Shaffer? [Submit them online here.](#)



## A Book Tribute to Black Inventors

You might know that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the NBA’s all-time leading scorer (with a career 38,387 points), but he’s also an author. His book, [What Color is My World?: The Lost History of African-American Inventors](#) follows a set of twins

as they discover that many of the common items found in their house exist thanks to Black inventors. Their ingenuity and perseverance, against great odds, made our world safer, better, and brighter. Perfect for students in grades 4-8.

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## Local Resources



Have you or your loved ones been affected by COVID-19? MAEC has compiled the most up-to-date state resources to help address the needs of families during the COVID-19 pandemic, including information from the state departments of education, child nutrition, and unemployment offices.

[Visit our site](#)



## Innovation & Inspiration

We are inspired by school districts finding innovative ways to address the specific concerns of our most vulnerable students. This week we feature a story about Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) and their recently approved racial equity policy.

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The Indianapolis Public Schools Superintendent, Aleesia Johnson, led the development of a racial equity policy for the past 18 months. This policy was unanimously approved by The IPS Board of School Commissioners. The racial equity policy includes wide-ranging principles: ensuring all district staff have access to professional development on racial equity, expanding efforts to identify and address racial disparities in school discipline, providing access to a high-quality education for all students, and committing to intentionally creating

a more diverse hiring pool. Read more about the district's commitment to addressing inequities.

[Indianapolis Public Schools Adopts Racial Equity Policy](#)

*IndyStar, June 26, 2020*



## Resources for Families

### **Left or Right Brain Dominance**

If you write with your right hand, you may also prefer to draw, throw a ball, or eat food with your right hand, but have you ever wondered if your right foot is also more dominant than your left foot? What about your right eye and ear — do you prefer to use them more than your left ones? In this activity, you can find out whether people have a sidedness — that is, whether they generally prefer to do activities with one side of their body — and what that might say about their brain. Activity includes instructions that can be adjusted for students of all ages.

**Discover**

### **Ten Black Scientists You Should Know**

Check out this list of ten Black scientists that everyone should know about. This collection of extraordinary people includes Katherine Johnson (as featured in the “Hidden Figures” movie), Edward Bouchet (the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from any American university), and Annie Easley (who worked at NASA as a “human computer,” performing complex mathematical calculations).

**Inspire**

### **Love the Skin You're In**

In addition to helping us feel tickles and protecting us, skin comes in many different beautiful tones and colors. Watch Lupita Amondi Nyong'o and Elmo talk about loving the skin they're in in this video.

Learn

## Contact Us

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Not interested in receiving the Learning at Home newsletter? [Please let us know.](#)

### \*Disclaimer:

I, Seth Shaffer, Psy.D. (PSY 27492), am a licensed psychologist in the State of California. I work in outpatient clinical settings, and provide therapy to children, adolescents, and families.

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) has hired me to share general school related parenting strategies for families affected by COVID-19. **The information I provide in the MAEC webinars or website newsletters is not a mental health service or therapy. Sharing the information does not establish a therapist-client professional or confidential relationship between me and any other person who accesses or learns of the information.** All information shared is based solely on my knowledge, expertise, and clinical training. But it is not intended to be a clinical mental health service or therapy for a specific person or circumstance.

Any viewer/participant who believes that they may be experiencing psychological distress or symptoms should consult a local mental health professional right away. They may consider calling the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 24/7 National Hotline (1-800-662-4357) or another

reputable referral organization for help.

I have no conflict of interest with any organization or entity mentioned in MAEC presentation and subsequent MAEC webinars.

