



Each week, MAEC's Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) Center 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.

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The Family Table



Collaborative Action for
Family Engagement



"Thanks to your insightful, thought-provoking, and even healing webinar series, I know I am much better than I would be without the support I derive from my connection with you and the guests you bring to these forums." - N. Malik, webinar attendee

Join us at the Family Table
Thursday, July 30, 3pm ET

Pull up a chair to The Family Table as we learn how families can make their voices heard and work with their school teams to make reopening plans successful.

We are pleased to be joined by Maya Martin Cadogan, Founder and Executive Director of DC PAVE, and PAVE Parent, Nicole Johnson-Douglas. [DC PAVE](#) is an organization dedicated to involving children and families in crafting a vision for education in DC. Our guests will discuss how families can partner with leaders in creating school reopening plans that are responsive to their needs. They will provide listeners with strategies for making their voices heard and for creating partnerships that ensure the safety, socio-emotional well-being, and academic learning of all children.

This webinar will also feature the **Question Corner** with Karmen Rouland, CAFE Program Manager, and Mariela Puentes, CAFE Program Associate, answering your questions regarding "pandemic pods" and what they mean for equity.

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:

What do I tell my teenager when his peers don't seem to care about social distancing?

Now more than ever, safety is a concern as soon as you leave your apartment or home. As parents, we must be nurturing and demonstrate compassion toward our children while being vigilant in keeping them safe. This is also a time to encourage community responsibility. Helping your teen connect with caring about others and showing compassion are invaluable life lessons, even if this means looking "uncool" in front of their peers. This is an important time for you as parents/caretakers to model empathy and self-advocacy. Remember that even

if your child shrugs off what you say or doesn't seem to care, deep down they hear you and watch your behavior. Learn more about how to approach this conversation with your teen.

[Read more](#)

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



P.I.C.K. a Book

The secret to helping children learn how to choose the right book is simple. All you need to remember is the P.I.C.K. method to find a “just right” book. You can guide your child using the following prompts or help them develop strategies to guide their own learning:

- What is the **purpose** or the why for choosing a book?
- Find something of **interest**, there's something out there for everyone!
- Do you understand or **comprehend** what you read?
- Do you **know** the words?

Find more information from Scholastic regarding strategies for using the [P.I.C.K. Method](#) to find a book that is a good fit for your children.

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 the efforts of Providence Public Schools, RI, to turn around the district in partnership with the community in the midst of the pandemic and the reckoning with systemic racism.

Harrison Peters, Superintendent of Providence Public Schools, was one month into his role when the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close. Superintendent Peters sees the pandemic as an opportunity to reinvent learning in a way that addresses students' diverse learning styles and focuses on helping them heal from any traumas. Under his supervision, school improvement efforts have been focused on listening to the community and ensuring that every child is supported to be successful. In planning for the return to school, he is mandating anti-racism, culturally responsive training for teachers, focusing on diversifying the teaching workforce, and ensuring a culturally responsive curriculum where students see themselves represented. Watch the interview with Superintendent Peters and read more about his approach below.

[Passing the Mic: Providence Superintendent Harrison Peters](#)

TNTP, July 16, 2020



Resources for Families

Develop a Reading Routine

Looking to develop an at-home reading routine before

school starts? Check out the Springboard Collaborative's four-week reading plan: it includes tips, questions to ask, ways to interact and play, and suggestions for helping your child make connections between the text and their experiences.

Practice

DIY Puzzle

Make a name puzzle using your child's name. The only supplies you need are a piece of paper, a marker, and scissors. This is a perfect activity for young kinesthetic learners who are learning to spell their name.

Create

Read Slowly

Reading can be challenging. It can feel frustrating when it takes you longer to read than others. Jacqueline Woodson has written over 30 books for kids and young adults. She's been recognized many times, including with a Newbery Honor, two Coretta Scott King awards, and was recently named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress in 2018-2019. Watch her TED Talk about what reading slowly taught her about writing.

Discover

Contact Us

Are you looking for information or assistance?

Contact Us

Stay in Touch!

Receive information on our latest events and news.

Join Us



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.

