Preparing for Remote Learning

USE THIS CHAT to prepare your students for times when your school will move from in-person to remote learning. Students explore their experiences being independent and responsible learners and caring classmates at school. They then build on those experiences to plan for how they can continue to be responsible learners and care for classmates while away from school.

30 minutes
COMMUNITY CHAT

Preparing for Remote Learning

PURPOSE

- Discuss ways to be responsible outside of school
- Discuss ways to be friendly and caring outside of school
- Talk with and listen to a partner

ABOUT THIS CHAT

To make this chat as meaningful as possible, before the chat share with students the plan for how they will learn during remote learning. For example, share and demonstrate, if possible, how you will do your teaching and how the students will get their assignments.

If needed, break the chat into two parts, discussing being responsible learners in one chat and being caring and friendly in another.

1 Introduce Today’s Community Chat Topic
(5 minutes)

Quickly and randomly pair the students and have them move to the circle, with partners sitting together. Briefly review the “Community Chat Rules” chart.

Explain that today the students will prepare for how they will keep learning and taking care of each other when they are learning from home. Explain that learning from home and taking care of each other are ways to be independent and responsible.

2 Discuss School Experiences with Being Responsible (5 minutes)

Point out some different ways that the students have been independent and responsible at school.

You might say:

“I have noticed that you are listening carefully to the directions so you know what to do when it is time for you to work on your own. I also notice that you stay at your seats and keep working until time is up.”
Facilitation Tip
Continue to focus on responding neutrally with interest during class discussions by refraining from overtly praising or criticizing the students’ responses. Respond with interest while avoiding evaluative statements, whether positive or negative.

Ask and discuss, first in pairs and then as a class:

Q What are some other ways you have been independent and responsible with your learning at school? [pause] Turn to your partner.

Students might say:
- “I remember to put my materials away.”
- “I try to do my best.”
- “I don’t interrupt your group but stay focused on what I am doing.”

3 Discuss and Plan for Responsible Behavior at Home (5 minutes)

Tell the students that they will now think about how they can keep being responsible and independent even when learning at home.

Ask and discuss the following questions one at a time, first in pairs, and then as a class:

Q What can you do to make sure you always have the things you need to learn at home? [pause] Turn to your partner.

Q What are some other ways you can be responsible for learning at home? [pause] Turn to your partner.

Students might say:
- “I can keep my pencils, paper, and other things in one place like we do at school.”
- “I’m also going to take home paper and a pencil like you said I could.”
- “I can listen to the directions you or my parents give.”
- “I can sit and focus on what I am supposed to do like I do at school.”

4 Discuss School Experiences with Being Caring and Friendly (5 minutes)

Point out some different ways that the students have been caring and friendly at school.

You might say:
- “I have noticed that you say kind words to each other. Yesterday I heard someone tell someone else that they really liked their writing.”
Ask and discuss, first in pairs and then as a class:

**Q** What are some other ways you have been caring and friendly at school? [pause] Turn to your partner.

*Students might say:*
- “I wait for my turn to talk and listen to other people."
- “I smile at other kids."
- “I share my materials."
- “I have been staying in my spot to keep other kids safe from my germs."

**Discuss and Plan for Caring Behavior at Home (5 minutes)**

Tell the students that they will now think about how they can keep being caring and friendly when they are learning from home.

Ask and discuss the following questions one at a time, first in pairs, and then as a class:

**Q** How can you act in caring and friendly ways when we meet online? [pause] Turn to your partner.

**Q** What are some other ways you can be caring and friendly while you are at home? [pause] Turn to your partner.

*Students might say:*
- “I can smile at people."
- “I can wait for my turn to talk."
- “I could draw someone a picture or write them a note and send it to you."
- “I can help my family if anyone needs help."

**Summarize and Adjourn the Chat (5 minutes)**

Summarize the students’ ideas for ways that they can continue to be responsible, caring, and friendly during remote learning. Encourage the students to try out their ideas, and tell them that you will check in with them and their parents while they are learning from home.

Adjourn the chat and have the students return to their seats.
AFTER THIS CHAT

Periodically ask the students to share how they are doing taking responsibility for their learning and being caring and friendly at home. Point out ways that you notice students showing care for others and continuing to be responsible learners. Also look for opportunities to communicate with families about how students are doing emotionally and academically while learning from home.