

Regional webinar programme for teachers in  
MENA

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# Webinar#7 Supporting parents in children's remote learning

Dec 2020



# Ask Hala

Synchronous

Social Media

Asynchronous

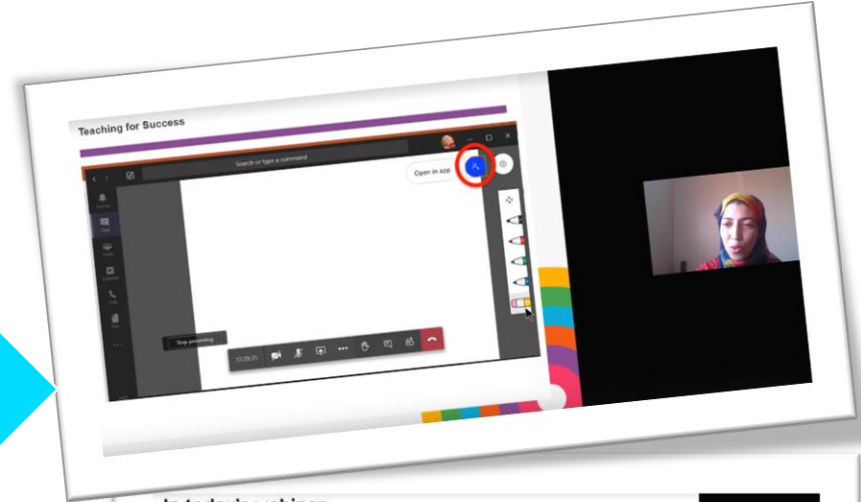
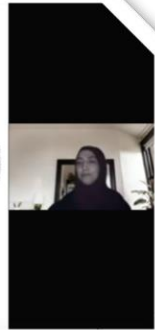
Blended

Motivation

Materials

Parents

## British Council CPD Framework for teachers



## In today's webinar....

We're going to have a look at:

- Why use them in teaching and PD?
- How to use them in teaching and PD?
- What practical activities can we do by using them?
- What things should we consider when using them?



## Strategies to increase learner motivation remotely

- 1. Give timely and sensitive feedback**  
delayed feedback may result in the learners' sense of isolation and may even cause some serious deviations from the course.
- 2. Provide easy access to resources**  
provide guidance on further reading and studying by giving links to free, easily accessible resources.



## What is Blended Learning?



## Treasure hunt



- Click
- 1. To complete the challenge...
- 2. What was Shakespeare's childhood?
- 3. What was Shakespeare's family?
- 4. What was Shakespeare's life like?
- 5. What was Shakespeare's work like?
- 6. What was Shakespeare's death like?
- 7. What was Shakespeare's legacy like?
- 8. What was Shakespeare's impact like?
- 9. What was Shakespeare's influence like?
- 10. What was Shakespeare's legacy like?

# Where are you joining us from?

<https://www.menti.com/n21xq52kds>



# **In today's webinar, we're going to look at:**

- Why parents should be involved
- Tips to strengthen communication between teachers and parents
- Ideas to involve parents in facilitating remote learning
- Parents and children's online safety
- Role of parents in supporting remote learning

**Think about your relationship with parents before and after Covid-19?  
Has it become any different?**

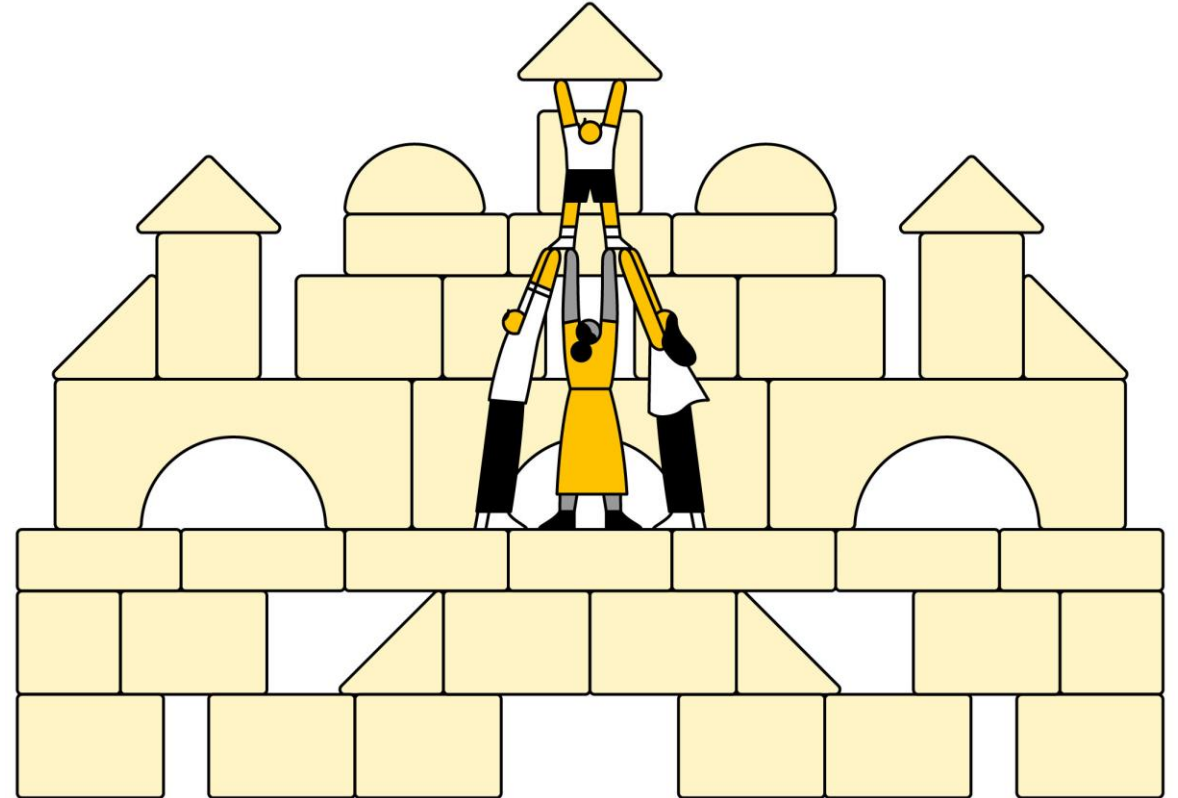
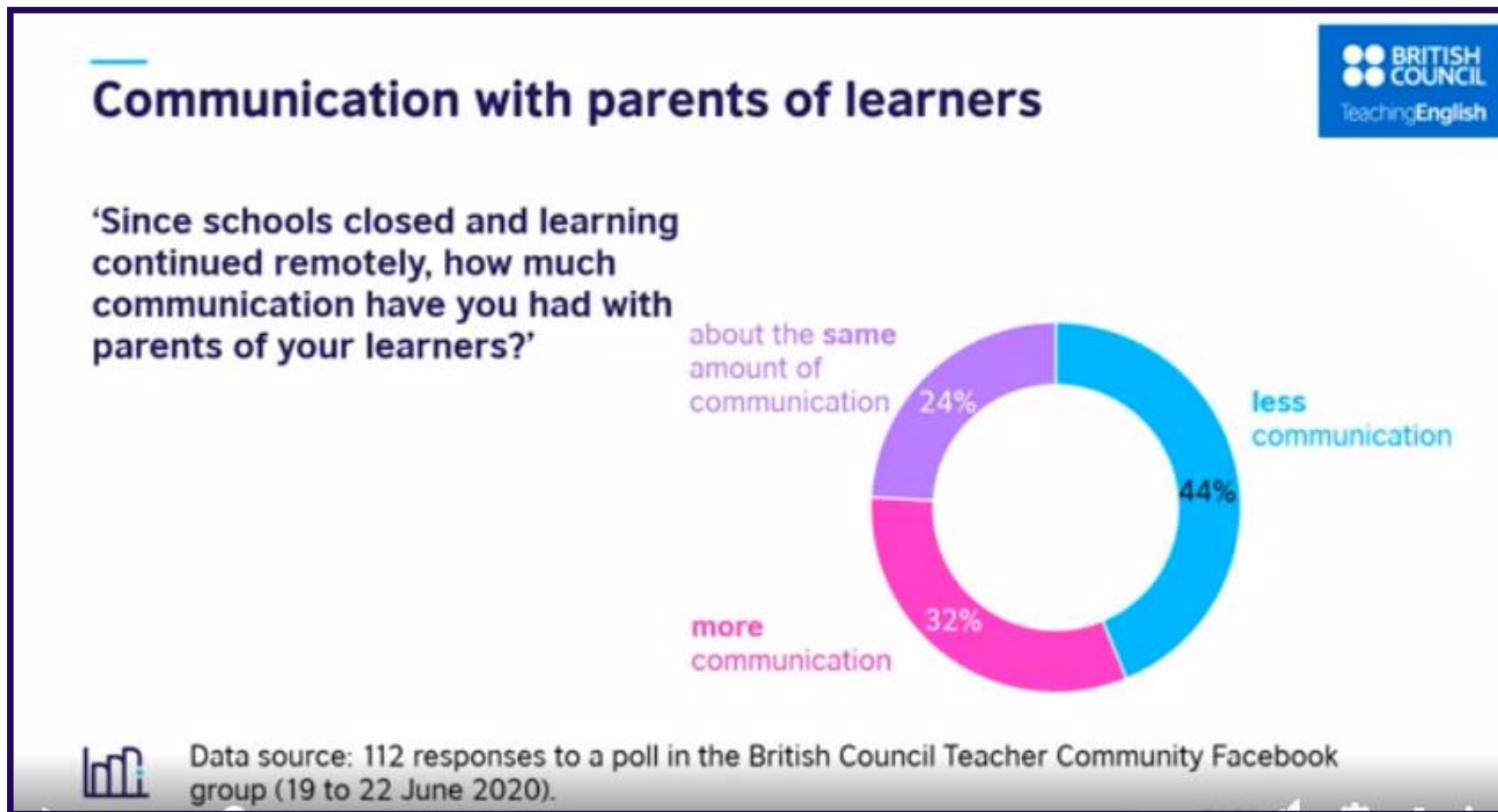


Image: The New York Times

# What did teachers around the world say back in June? Is this still true?

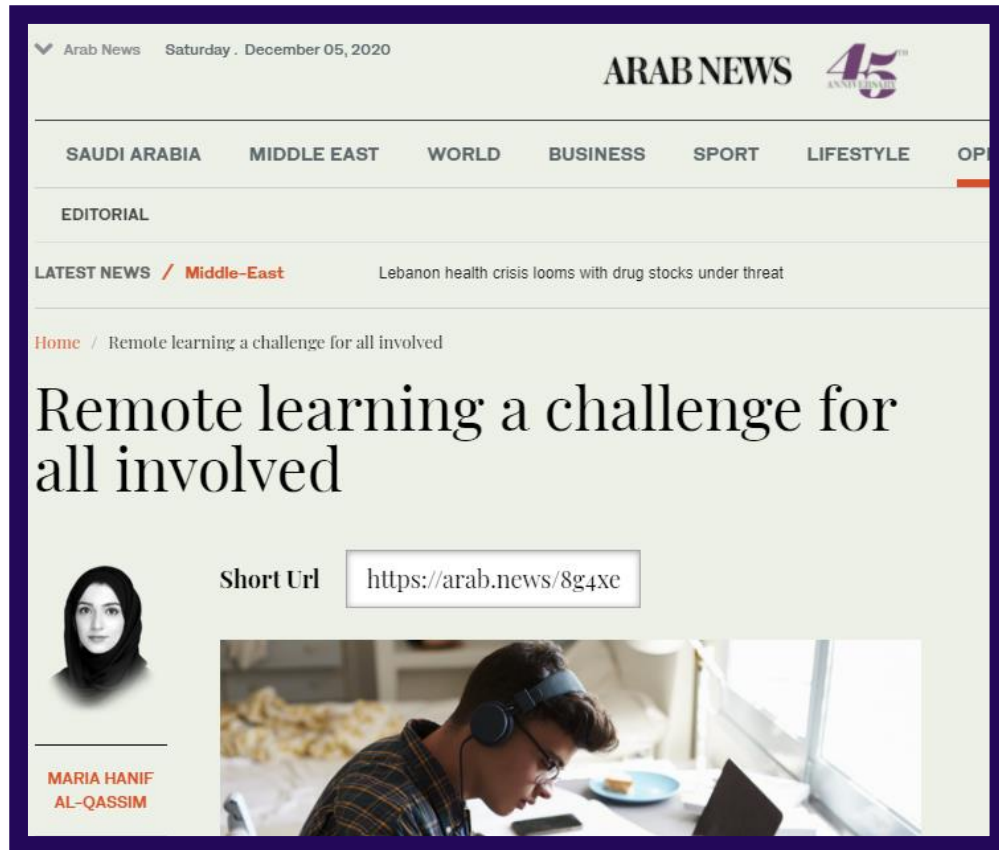


# Maria Al-Qassem, Ranjitsinh Disale & Stephen Fry





# Maria Al-Qassem



Teaching a child is one of the biggest struggles we face as parents during this crisis. Educating younger children requires a unique skill set that our incredible teachers have spent years honing. As parents, we try our best, **but we will always be less able to transfer that kind of knowledge to children**, simply because we are not trained teachers. It is also difficult to simulate the same **learning environment** children have at school. In addition, many of these students have parents or guardians who had no formal education or are even illiterate, and therefore **unable to help** with their children's learning.



# Ranjitsinh Disale

July 2020

Varkey Foundation

Teacher Task Force

- Ideal way to engage parents in the learning process is through **creating tailor-made activities**, with **defined roles**
- too give parents a sense of participation in decision making he created online activities where **parents were required to spend just one hour each day to help children complete a task.**
- **Ranjithsinh calls it an “hour of life”.**
- he sets clear instructions on what parents are required to do in that hour.
- Through this “hour of life”, parents and students learn **life skills and practical knowledge** that they can apply in day-to-day life.

# What happened to Ranjitsinh this month?



# Why should parents be involved?

Research has shown that parental involvement in their child's education **improves their educational achievements**; it causes them to stay longer in school and encourages an overall positive development in the child (Mapp and Handerson, 2002).

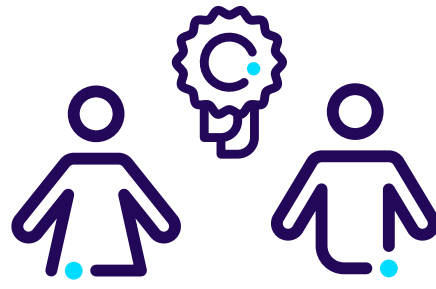
Due to the COVID-19 and school closure, it became apparent that parents had to assume the role of '**surrogate teachers**' to ensure the continuity of children's learning.

Parents can be an important source of **motivation** for their children particularly in remote learning

Parents who stay abreast of happenings in the school community can be an **additional source of information** for learners and can help them to adjust to their evolving learning environment. Reading school emails, checking social media feeds, reviewing classroom communications or news.

**Second pair of hands for teachers** in e.g. reviewing assignment instructions, helping navigate online applications or troubleshooting technical issues.

# Supporting parents to help their learners



**Communications**

**Involvement**

**Online safety**

## Getting started

- Find out how you can communicate with parents and give information to them
- Communicate with parents in their own first language if you can.
- Emails, text messages, phone calls
- Use a short call or message/email to **introduce yourself** and ask how the parents/caregivers and children are.
- **Tell them what you will do.** How often will you send a message or make a call, and when can they reply? For you and the parents, is the morning, afternoon or evening better?



## Setting up learning

- Send parents and caregivers a basic **list of the topics** that would be used in school study.
- Use **simple language** that parents will understand
- Tell parents about topics that **connect to things in and around the home** and family
- If the family has the textbooks, suggest sections that they can work on **without a teacher**.



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## Continuing communication

- **Plan** what you will do.
- Think about **how much time** it will take, and **what times** and on what days you will communicate.
- **Check your messages** before you send them. Are they clear enough? Can the parents understand what you are suggesting?
- Don't send **too many messages** each day.
- Try to find out what the **children enjoy doing** at home and suggest activities around this
- Tell parents about any English language **radio or TV** programmes that you think are suitable for their children.





## Model everything:

- It can be difficult for parents to understand how to facilitate a learning activity effectively without concrete examples, and **video examples** are effective to demonstrate hands-on learning.
- Film yourself **reading aloud** and asking questions
- Make a video of yourself **writing and demonstrating phonetic spelling**.
- Set up an **engineering challenge** with everyday objects around your home and mess up a few times.
- Model **exploration, experimentation, and failure** as parts of the learning process



- 
- **Be direct:**
  - **Speak directly to parents** in your videos and messages.
  - **Explain** the reasons behind your strategies
  - **Acknowledge** how difficult this work is and **express your gratitude** for their efforts and persistence.
  - **Provide tips** for taking care of themselves during this time, and resources they can use, such as mindfulness activities or free yoga and fitness videos online.
  - Let them know you're there to **support them**.



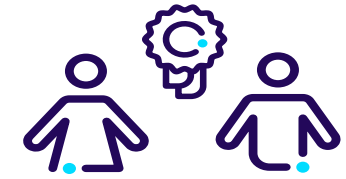
## Equity:

Be mindful of the at-home activities you suggest and the materials they require, since many families may not have access to or be able to purchase them. Encourage learning activities that require **non-specific or no materials**.

## For example:

Families can build their child's critical thinking and deduction skills through a challenging game of **I Spy** by providing their child with clues about the function of an object, what an object does not do, and the location of an object in the room.

Parents and guardians can be **storytellers** and create a compelling and suspenseful story off the top of their heads, with no book to read from or paper to write it down on. Children can be storytellers in the same way and can be actors by using different voices to take on each of the characters in the story.



**Involvement**

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Families can challenge their children to be **detectives** around their home—searching for specific letters, numbers, shapes, and patterns that already exist all around them, if they pay close enough attention.

Send **engineering and architecture challenges** and encourage families to use items they already have around the home to complete them.

For **writing and drawing activities**, encourage free-writing and drawing on blank paper. (Kids Doodle is free to download).

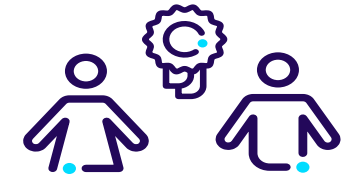


Ensuring equity also means being mindful of parents' **language and literacy skills**.

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## Celebrate with them:

- Invite parents to share **evidence** of their child's learning with every activity you suggest—they can post a video or a picture
- To promote and normalise this family engagement, **provide positive feedback** on the students' work and **praise** families' efforts in facilitating their child's learning.
- Talk about **next steps** to keep the learning going. This encourages families to continue their efforts while building your students' confidence and pride in their accomplishments.



**Involvement**

# 7 Tips for Parents Supporting Remote Learning

EDUCATION WEEK | OPINION

Larry Ferlazzo's  
7 Tips For Parents Supporting Remote Learning

# Useful resources for parents

The screenshot shows the 'LearnEnglish Kids' website on a desktop browser. The address bar displays 'learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/covid-19-support-for-parents'. The website has an orange header with navigation links: 'Log in', 'Sign up', 'Newsletter', a language dropdown set to 'English', and tabs for 'LearnEnglish', 'TeachingEnglish', and 'LearnEnglish Teens'. The main header features the 'BRITISH COUNCIL' logo and 'LearnEnglish Kids' with a search icon. Below this is a row of activity buttons: 'Listen and watch', 'Read and write', 'Speak and spell', 'Grammar and vocabulary', 'Fun and games', 'Print and make', and a highlighted 'Parents' button. A large orange banner reads 'Covid-19 support for parents'. The main content area is divided into three sections: a text block about supporting parents at home, a 'Help and Support' list, and a 'Courses' section. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various open applications and the system clock at 12:16 PM on 12/6/2020.

learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/covid-19-support-for-parents

Log in Sign up Newsletter English LearnEnglish TeachingEnglish LearnEnglish Teens

BRITISH COUNCIL LearnEnglish Kids

Listen and watch Read and write Speak and spell Grammar and vocabulary Fun and games Print and make Parents

Home

## Covid-19 support for parents

The LearnEnglish Kids team want to support parents at this challenging time. Many parents around the world are spending a lot of time at home with their young children. If you're in this situation, our website can help you support your child's English learning at home.

Here are some ideas for short activities that your children can do by themselves and/or with limited guidance. Don't worry if you don't speak English – you can give your child the instructions in your own language, and at the end of the activity they can also tell you about it in your own language. The most important thing is that while they are doing the activity, they are using English.

### Revise schoolwork

LearnEnglish Kids has lots of activities related to common topics that children study at school, and most of our pages are designed for children to work through independently. Look at your children's English school books to see what topics they've covered this year, then look for the topics on our

### Help and Support

- ▶ Covid-19 support for parents
- ▶ Getting started for kids
- ▶ House rules for kids
- ▶ Find out about levels
- ▶ Getting started for parents
- ▶ House rules for parents and teachers
- ▶ Frequently asked questions

### Courses

- ▶ Find an English course for your child



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A recent survey asked 2,000 American parents of school-aged children about their experience this school year and the worries that come with it.

The survey found that **76%** of respondents are worried about their child's online safety while distance learning

- Check parents are **aware of online risks**.
- Make sure you have shared with them the **safeguarding processes** your school has in place for reporting when they have concerns.
- In your instructions, inform parents and learners to only use their first name and first initial of the last name when logging in. This **protects their personal details and reduces identification of individuals**.
- If there's a need to **record a session**, make sure parents are aware when this will happen and who can access them.



**Online  
safety**

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# What roles can parents play?

The demands of the education system in the 'new normal' require parents to play a multifaceted role in minimising the impact of the pandemic on their children's academic performance and well-being.

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# What roles can parents play?

- Good communicator
- Active Caretaker
- Routine builder
- Vigilant guardian
- Friendly teacher

## **In today's webinar, we've looked at:**

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- ✓ Ideas to involve parents in facilitating remote learning
- ✓ Parents and children's online safety
- ✓ Role of parents in supporting remote learning

# Useful resources

- <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/helping-parents-caregivers-support-remote-learning-home>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/empowering-families-distance-learning-early-childhood>
- [https://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/classroom\\_qa\\_with\\_larry\\_ferlazzo/2020/04/video\\_7\\_tips\\_for\\_parents\\_supporting\\_remote\\_learning.html](https://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/classroom_qa_with_larry_ferlazzo/2020/04/video_7_tips_for_parents_supporting_remote_learning.html)
- <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/keeping-your-learners-safe-online>

# Thank you!