Going to School & Learning at Home (Hybrid Model) During COVID-19

A Social Narrative for Visual Learners

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The new sickness COVID-19, also known as the “coronavirus”, has changed our lives.
Most importantly, it has changed how we do many things.
Because of COVID-19, school buildings closed in the spring. To keep everyone safe, we were asked to stay at home.
Children learned virtually or remotely. This means, they did not go to the school building. Instead, they met with their teachers and classmates from home with the help of a computer.
Right now schools are deciding whether to have in-school learning or to have students learn from home.
Some schools are giving families the choice.

Some kids might come to the school building to learn this year. Some kids might learn from home.
Some kids are doing both - some days they go to the school building to learn and some days they learn from home.
When schools have every student do both, in-school and at home learning, it is called a *hybrid model*. 
You might feel a little worried about how school will be different this year. Things seem uncertain and may change a lot during this school year.
Remember, everyone is feeling that way.
It is good to share how you are feeling.

You can share how you are feeling with someone in your family, with your teachers, or with another adult at school, like a counselor.
If your school is using a hybrid model, it will be helpful to keep track of your days using a schedule or calendar.
You may worry less when you know and can see your schedule.
Remember, on the days you go to school, things may look different.
To keep each other safe, you, your classmates and your teachers may be wearing face masks, face shields, special glasses, or gloves.
Things may look different in your classroom too.

Sometimes, you may even have your classes in a different room or outside.
To prevent the spread of germs, there may be bigger spaces between desks.
There might also be barriers between desks. These barriers will keep germs from spreading.
There may be new rules about how, or when you can do things at school, such as when you can go to the bathroom or when you can go to lunch or recess.
There may be new rules about washing your hands, using hand sanitizer, or getting your temperature taken. They may take your temperature to make sure you don’t have a fever.
People who have COVID-19 might have a fever. They also may have a cough or may have trouble breathing. Don’t forget to cough into your elbow if you need to cough!
There may also be new rules about where to sit, or how you line up and move from place to place.
It is important to not stand too close to your classmates.

When you can, stand or sit at least 6 feet away from others.

To help you remember, that is about the length of two Golden Retrievers!
It is also important to try hard to not to touch your face.

Touching your face and then touching other things can spread germs.
What about the days you are learning at home?

Those days may seem different too.
You may want to set up a special workspace on days you are learning at home.
You may create a space to have a computer, your books, and other school supplies.

This should be a quiet place away from distractions, like the TV.
Sometimes you will meet with your teacher on the computer.

Sometimes someone in your house can help you with your schoolwork.
When you’re learning at home, be sure to tell an adult:

- If you don’t understand
- When you need extra help
- When you need a break
- When learning feels fun!
Your teacher and your family are ready to help you.

Let them know if you are having a hard time or need help to understand or calm down.
We must work hard to make changes like these.

The changes we make will help us stay safe at school and in the community.
Heroes help make changes!

When you make these changes, you can keep others safe and healthy. That means you can be a hero too!
VISUAL REMINDER:

Today is an:

In-School Learning Day
Today is an:

At-Home Learning Day