

Is deciding how your child will be cared for and keep learning during COVID-19 complicated?

Many families are balancing the physical health of their families with having to work and come up with solutions they can live with for the foreseeable future. This is leaving many parents with a critical question, **"How do I decide what to do?"**.

[RESCHOOL](#)'s **Summer Learning During COVID-19 Tool** supports families in answering that question. Families consider questions that might affect their decision and prioritize what is most important to them.

Answer the questions in this tool based on what you have to decide right now. Circumstances change quickly. It is most helpful to use this tool for decisions you need to make right now.

Skip questions that don't make sense for your family. **Add** questions that aren't in there. **Answers may be different for each child.**

Sit at a table or find a spot on the floor. Grab a few pens and scissors if they are available. As you do each activity below, you place it next to the last one.

Note: This tool assumes everyone involved is following current COVID-19 state and local guidelines.

Core Questions

Start by answering these questions for Summer 2020 and keep them in mind while you go through the tool.

What days and times do you need care for your child(ren)?

Are you looking for care and activities you can access at a certain time, any time or both?

In general, what is your comfort level in exposing your family to people outside of the home?

- Not Comfortable Comfortable in small, controlled groups Comfortable
 I don't know how I feel

What is your budget for care and learning for your child(ren) during summer break?

Directions: Print the following pages twice so that you and your child can answer the questions separately. Come together and discuss. Notice what was different and what was the same. After doing each activity, lay it next to the last one so you can see everything together at the end.

What environments are you most comfortable with your child being in this summer?

Cut the below squares out. Arrange them based on comfortability with the situation you are most comfortable with being at the top. You can put multiple options on the same level.

<i>At home with people who live in the home</i>	<i>Mostly at home, sometimes interacting with a small group of friends/families/neighbors</i>
<i>In a public setting with the same small group of individuals (ex: activity with the same 5 kids and instructor every day)</i>	<i>In a few locations with the same group of individuals (ex: share a babysitter with a few families and go between each other's homes)</i>
<i>One childcare center or summer camp</i>	<i>Friend, family or neighbor watches them in your home or theirs.</i>
<i>More than one childcare center or summer camp</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>

What environments would be sustainable for your child to be in the whole summer? Consider what supports your families' mental well-being.

Cut the below squares out. Arrange them based on sustainability with the situation that is most sustainable being at the top. You can put multiple options on the same level.

<i>At home with people who live in the home</i>	<i>Mostly at home, sometimes interacting with a small group of friends/families/neighbors</i>
<i>In a public setting with the same small group of individuals (ex: activity with the same 5 kids and instructor every day)</i>	<i>In a few locations with the same group of individuals (ex: share a babysitter with a few families and go between each other's homes)</i>
<i>One childcare center or summer camp</i>	<i>Friend, family or neighbor watches them in your home or theirs.</i>
<i>More than one childcare center or summer camp</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>

What physical locations is your child happy to be in? What does your child say?

Write your answer in the box below and cut out the box.

<p>Physical locations happy to be in</p>

How much screen time are you comfortable with your child having? Does it make a difference if the screen time is for relaxing versus schoolwork or an activity?

Write your answer in the box below and cut out the box.

Screen Time

What activities would you like your child to participate in this summer? What activities does your child want to participate in?

Cut the below squares out. Arrange them based on what you believe is most important to least important for your child. The child will do the same for themselves.

<i>Spending Time Outside</i>	<i>Schoolwork/Academics</i>
<i>Time with friends/family/neighbors</i>	<i>Helping to take care of someone or take care of the home</i>
<i>Doing something the child is interested in</i>	<i>Trying something new</i>
<i>Volunteering</i>	<i>Working</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>

Are online activities a fit for your child/family?

Answer the questions in the boxes below. Cut out the below line and the squares. Put squares **above the line** if the answer **supports doing online learning** and put squares **below the line** if the answer **does not support doing online learning**. Note: All online programs are different so some of these questions may guide you in deciding which program is a fit.

<i>Does your child have access to a device (ex: laptop, chromebook) and wireless internet?</i>	<i>How did your child respond to online learning during Spring 2020? Were they engaged? Did they like it?</i>
<i>Does it make a difference to you if the online program costs money?</i>	<i>Do you also need to find childcare for your child while they do the online program?</i>
<i>Do you mind if the online program requires the adult to be available to support the child in completing the activities?</i>	<i>How did you answer the screen time question above?</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>

Are screen-free activities at home a fit for your child/family?

Answer the questions in the boxes below. Cut out the below line and the squares. Put squares **above the line** if the answer **supports at-home activities** and put squares **below the line** if the answer **does not support activities at home**. **Note:** All at-home activities are different so some of these questions may guide you in deciding which program is a fit.

<i>Does the activity come with all the needed materials or do you have them at home?</i>	<i>Does it make a difference to you if the at-home activity costs money?</i>
<i>Do you also need to find childcare for your child while they are doing the at-home activity?</i>	<i>Do you mind if the at-home activity requires the adult to be available to support the child in completing the activities?</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>

Other Things to Consider

- If you are paying for care or learning for your child, make sure to ask what notice you need if you decide not to participate so you are not charged. Also ask what the organization or individual's policy is for reimbursement if they close or cancel programming.

Next

Take a few minutes to look at all the activities you just did. What surfaced for you and your child? Use the space below to write down the things that are the best fit for your family based on this exercise.

To support parents in finding learning experiences that fit them, [RESCHOOL](#)'s [Blueprint4SummerCO](#) website now provides an organized list of a variety of online classes, take-home kits and in-person summer activities for kids age 3-18 in the Denver Metro area. To date, the site lists more than 60 online and take-home summer program options and more than 250 online or in-person options that are either free or under \$100. The site is searchable by location, age, cost, interest area and more, which makes it easy for families to customize their search based on what matters to them. Arts, sports and academic activities were the most popular searches in 2019. The site is also free for providers to upload their information.

Considering additional things when making decisions about your kids care or learning this summer. [Email](#) us or message us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).