

Ideas for Providing Distance STAR Instruction March 2020

The following ideas (not requirements) for providing distance STAR instruction during statewide school closings or interruptions were developed by Minnesota STAR trainers. Not all are appropriate or reasonable for your ABE program or STAR instructional setting. However, they are intended to inspire creative thinking about how to “carry on” safely with delivery of evidence-based reading instruction during challenging times.

“Starting” Ideas:

1. Collect home addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers for your STAR students.
2. Stay connected with them via letters, emails, texts, or phone calls so you can promote distance learning options and inform them when classes resume.
3. If possible, have students sign up for [Remind](#). This free website provides two-way, group “communication for the school, home, and everywhere in between.”

Ideas for STAR Instruction with Limited Technology or Internet:

1. Mail students printed alphabetic lessons from *Making Sense of Decoding and Spelling* (or other free materials) at <https://atlasabe.org/resources/reading/reading-components/alphabetic/>. Provide phone call instruction of patterns and words. Review practice activities for at-home completion. Call back to read and review answers.
2. Mail students printed academic vocabulary lessons available at <https://atlasabe.org/resources/reading/reading-components/vocabulary/>. Provide phone call modeling of pronunciations, meanings, parts of speech, and contexts. Review practice activities for at-home completion. Call back to read and review answers.
3. Mail students printed fluency passages at their instructional levels available at <https://atlasabe.org/resources/reading/reading-components/fluency/>. Provide phone call echo or repeated readings. Assign re-readings of the same passage at home. Call back to hear readings and check comprehension.
4. Use the same or related fluency passages to model and guide identifying main ideas and summarizing via phone calls.
 - a. Call 1: For each paragraph, model answering: Who or what is this paragraph mostly about? What is the “gist” or most important idea from the paragraph (in sentence form)? How do I combine main idea sentences into a summary?
 - b. Call 2: For each paragraph, guide answering the same questions and writing a summary.

See page 2 for additional call and text ideas from Proliteracy.

Ideas for Synchronous STAR Instruction:

1. Become familiar with free or low-cost online platforms like [Zoom](#), [Google Hangouts Meet](#), [Skype](#), Facetime, Facebook messaging or groups.
2. Invite your students to attend your online or live-streamed STAR lessons (focused on modeling) for any of the four reading components.
3. Email or attach files they might need during the lesson or for guided practice activities after the lesson.
4. Meet again to check completed guided practice activities and work through application to connected texts and/or comprehension.

Ideas for Asynchronous STAR Instruction:

1. Assign [Reading Skills for Today's Adults](#) passages at students' fluency instructional levels for listening and rereading at home. Note: There is a \$24/seat cost to access student data.
2. Set up a [Flipgrid](#) account and create audio-video recordings of passages at students' fluency instructional levels for them to listen to and reread at home (see Elizabeth Bennet's Discussion Board post).
3. Set up a [Quizlet](#) account and create lessons for sets of vocabulary words for students to complete at home (see Erica Henke's Discussion Board post).
4. Set up a [Moby Max](#) account and assign appropriate phonics, sight words, or vocabulary lessons for students to complete at home.

Distance Learning Ideas from Proliteracy [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) (check it out!)

1. Stay on your current lesson plans as much as possible for consistency.
2. Keep in regular contact with learners.
3. Use texting for a supplement to instruction
 - a. Send a short text that the learner can read and respond to
 - b. Send vocabulary words [for them to study]
4. Use teleconference or phone conference systems to practice conversation groups, especially for ESL learners, [or teach and practice reading component skills]

[Free Conference Call](#) is a conference call solution which allows many participants. There is also a web-based version which allows for screen sharing.