

Online Family Games & Activities for School-Age Children



Free Games

Reading practice

Read a book together over the video call. This works best if both of you have the book. Switch off reading, so the parent reads one page, and the kid reads one page.

Virtual bingo

Bingo is a great game for families with multiple siblings or a larger group. You can find many free virtual bingo programs online, including this one from My Free Bingo Cards. You can also create homemade bingo cards and chips. This game is good because kids of various ages can play, and adults can have fun, too.

Hangman

This is a fun, educational game for grade schoolers learning to read and write. Draw physical hangman boards with pen and paper or choose from the many free options online. This online Hangman generator also includes categories that you can choose from based on your child's interests.

YouTube video

Have your child show you a recent video they found interesting, or select one based on their interests. Share your screen, which works best on Skype, Zoom, or Google Meet. Then, watch the video together and ask questions such as "What was your favorite part and why?" or "What was most interesting or surprising?"

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Mad Libs

This is a perfect game for kids developing their reading skills and learning the parts of speech. Use this free online Mad Libs generator tool. Simply fill in the blanks with the correct part of speech (adjective, noun, color, etc.), and then read the story aloud.

Uno!

Uno Online has a free version of the card game, which is best for kids aged 8 and up. The site also includes directions and a library of similar free games. You'll need to share your screen for this one, which is easiest on Skype, Zoom, or Google Meet.

Pictionary

Each player will need a few pieces of blank paper and a dark marker so family members can read it over the screen. Use this free online random word generator to make a list of words, and then take turns drawing a word and having the other players guess it. You can also set a time limit on a phone or stopwatch for 30 to 60 seconds.

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Paid Games



Online board games

Board games of all kinds are wonderful for grade schoolers. (Like Candyland and Trouble.) Depending on the game, you may find a virtual version online. However, you can also play physical board games over a video call.

Battleship

Download this Battleship gameboard to play the classic game remotely. Print the PDF and play the game according to the normal rules (included in the download). You can also use the original boards if both parties have a set.