

Working Families—Share the Care:

Finding a “pair” to help support your child's care during distance learning

One idea to support your child’s distance learning while working is to form a “[Share the Care Pair](#)” with another family. This offers a way to support your child's social needs, and may enable you to continue working while keeping social circles small. Here are some ideas to consider.

Finding a “Share the Care” partner

1. **Make a list** of who you and your child know already. Think about your neighborhood, your child’s class, school, faith community, or your co-workers. The longer your list, the more likely you will be to find a match between your work schedule, and who can agree on safety measures and distance learning support.
2. **Call or email potential parent partners** to ask if they might be interested. See sample questions attached. Expect to call at least five families to find a match. Save your notes in case your situations and schedules change later on.
3. **Decide together if you want to add another partner.** The smallest number of families is the safest, but you need another family to cover your schedules.

Plan

Set up a time to **get together through phone call, zoom, or outdoors** while physically distanced. Including your children for a short time would be a good idea.

1. **Discuss your shared agreements** around safety measures. You might even want to sign an agreement.
2. **Create a schedule** together to rotate adults supporting care. Some families decide to hire a part time distance learning tutor, or a combination of taking turns and hiring someone together.
3. **Decide whose house will host** the children during distance learning, and any considerations such as pets, food allergies, how any guns are locked and stored, etc.
4. **Talk about ideas and expectations for the distance learning support.** Which adults have strengths and interest in different subjects, how much time will be outdoor play, screen time expectations, and how to handle any conflicts between children (or adults).
5. As the school year progresses, **plan for weekly check ins** with all of the above. If situations change, you will need to have clear communication, and possibly change to a new “Share the Care” family. The more clearly and kindly you communicate, the longer the partnership will likely last, and the fewer transitions you and your child will need to make during the year. Expect changes to schedules, your children’s interests, and community changes.



More Ideas

- Do you work for an employer with under 500 employees? You may be eligible for the new federal **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**, for 12 weeks paid leave (at 2/3 pay) to help your child with distance learning. **Talk with your employer about your Family Leave request**, and to explore flexible schedule options.
- **For information about licensed child care options, including school age**, check the www.threadalaska.org website, or call 800.278.3723.
- Is your child under age 13 and eligible for tribal services? Check with **CCTHITA Child Care Assistance** about reimbursement for family friend and neighbor care. 463-7140.
- **Looking for a tutor or nanny? Wwww.Care.com may be a resource.**

*Disclaimer:
These are ideas to consider, not recommendations.
Each family needs to weigh the risks and benefits of each option according to their family situation, and consider the safety and level of risk for of each option.*