



Each week, MAEC's Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) Center, in collaboration with Turning the Page, curates resources on how families can educate children at home, enjoy "out-of-school" time, cope with this new normal, and plan for the next school year. If you are a parent advocate or educator, and know families who could benefit from this information, please share it and help spread the word.

## THE FAMILY ROOM

### **Join us in the Family Room**

**Thursday, July 9, 3pm ET**

**This week in the Family Room we discover ways to have fun with science and math this summer by using what you have at home.**

We are pleased to be joined by Alecia Gabriel from [Motor City S.T.E.A.M.](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing STEAM (Science. Technology. Engineering. Art, Mathematics) related educational programs and opportunities for culturally diverse and vulnerable students. Alecia will be sharing ways that families can have fun with science and math this summer by using everyday objects and materials.

This webinar will also feature the **Question Corner** with

child psychologist, Dr. Seth Shaffer\*, and education expert, Mariela Puentes.

Did you miss the last webinar? [Check it out now.](#)

[Register now](#)

## Ask Dr. Shaffer



Each week Dr. Shaffer answers questions on the website that readers like you submit. This week:

### **Do you have any suggestions for helping families who are experiencing homelessness?**

These are tough times, especially for families and children who may be experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability. We need to help children feel safe, find ways to express themselves through play, and connect safely with their peers. It is important that children understand that they are not alone, and that because of the economic recession more and more families share this common experience.

[Read more](#)

Do you have questions for Dr. Shaffer? [Submit them online here.](#)



## Encourage Creative Thinking!

Try this with your children: take an everyday object and come up with unusual ideas for using it. You can get started by thinking about multiple uses for paper clips:

- Grab a pencil and paper
- Set a timer

- Write down as many uses for the object as possible
- See how many uses you can come up with as a family. For example: using a paperclip as a hair clip.

For more ideas, read about: [The Unusual Uses Game](#).

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## Local Resources



Have you or your loved ones been affected by COVID-19? MAEC has compiled the most up-to-date state resources to help address the needs of families during the COVID-19 pandemic, including information from the state departments of education, child nutrition, and unemployment offices.

[Visit our site](#)



## Innovation & Inspiration

We are inspired by school districts finding innovative ways to address the specific concerns of our most vulnerable students. This week we feature a story about the New Orleans's School District and how its 86 schools are collaborating to create school reopening plans for the fall.

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The New Orleans School District contains a system of charter schools where each school or charter network can make their own decisions on how to operate and are expected to create their own plans for reopening. However, school leaders across the district are choosing to come together to find common ground and align their school reopening plan to better meet the needs of students and families. Read more to find out how schools

with varying demographics, school buildings, and academic models are coming together.

[86 Schools, One Goal: How Dozens of New Orleans Educators With Unique Academic Models & Layouts Are Teaming Up to Reopen This Fall](#)

*The 74, June 23, 2020*



## Resources for Families

### **Design your own Rube Goldberg Machine**

Rube Goldberg machines require a lot of steps to complete easy tasks, like dunking a cookie or watering a plant. Choose a simple task, use materials you have at home, and get building.

**Watch**

### **Hidden Figures Children's Book**

Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, were four Black women who launched astronauts into space. They provided mathematical calculations to help NASA's space efforts. Check out this beautifully illustrated children's book, *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly and illustrated by Laura Freeman.

**Read**

### **Try Engineering at Home**

Children are natural problem solvers. Use a design thinking approach to help "pass the peppers" in this fun activity. Children will learn how to understand problems, develop prototypes, test solutions, and involve others in their projects.

**Experiment**

## Contact Us

Are you looking for information or assistance?

Contact Us

## Stay in Touch!

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### \*Disclaimer:

I, Seth Shaffer, Psy.D. (PSY 27492), am a licensed psychologist in the State of California. I work in outpatient clinical settings, and provide therapy to children, adolescents, and families.

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) has hired me to share general school related parenting strategies for families affected by COVID-19. **The information I provide in the MAEC webinars or website newsletters is not a mental health service or therapy. Sharing the information does not establish a therapist-client professional or confidential relationship between me and any other person who accesses or learns of the information.** All information shared is based solely on my knowledge, expertise, and clinical training. But it is not intended to be a clinical mental health service or therapy for a specific person or circumstance.

Any viewer/participant who believes that they may be experiencing psychological distress or symptoms should consult a local mental health professional right away. They may consider calling the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 24/7 National Hotline (1-800-662-4357) or another reputable referral organization for help.

I have no conflict of interest with any organization or entity mentioned in MAEC presentation and subsequent MAEC webinars.

