



Lehigh & Northampton Counties

*Achieve with us.*

**May 2020**

Dear Families,

As we continue to find our way through these challenging times and live within the constraints of COVID-19, we want to take the time to recognize what it is that you are doing every single day. We realize this is not easy for anyone and we want to share our appreciation for all you are doing during these times of quarantine. ***Bravo to all of you!***

Our Advocacy Department also wanted to highlight some important resources available to help you and your family navigate these challenging times. Of notable mention is the attached document released on April 15, 2020 from the Education Law Center (ELC) to share with parents and families, titled [5 Thing to Know: COVID-19 School Closures: General Information](#). The ELC is a nonprofit, legal advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that all children in Pennsylvania have access to a quality public education. Please keep in mind, the ELC's publications provide a general statement of the law and that each situation is different, and state and federal guidance on these topics continues to change.

The Department has also created a webpage of additional resources on our website, located [here](#). These resources include plain language explanations of COVID-19, social stories and scripts, and various educational & distance learning tools. This webpage also includes links to other resources that may assist families during the pandemic.

*\*Please note that this page is in no way inclusive of all resources or endorsing any organization.*

We want to highlight that the resources mentioned are provided to assist you and your family in facilitating your child's distance learning, but it is important to remember that these virtual learning circumstances are not requiring you to replace the role of an academic teacher. If you are finding your child/children are having a difficult time with their daily lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage you to keep a detailed and daily record of these. We then recommend you contact your child/children's teacher, case manager, and/or Supervisor of Special Education via email to discuss your concerns. By contacting members of your child/children's IEP/504 team and informing them directly of your concern(s), you are opening the door to continued collaboration and possible solutions.

Finally, we are also working diligently to schedule and present trainings to our greater community that are relevant, impactful, and purposeful on the current state of education and/or adult services during COVID-19. Our continued hope is that our free trainings offer possible approaches and/or solutions to common concerns during these trying times. Please refer to our [Facebook](#) and [Website Events](#) page for more details.

At the end of the day, take the time to take 3 deep breaths and know that you did the best you could today.

Stay Safe and Healthy,  
The Arc's Advocacy Department

*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*