



**FALL
NEWS
2020**

**Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly.
They take their time and wander on this
their only chance to soar."**

**-- Delia Owens,
*Where the Crawdads Sing***



In This Issue

[Back to School in the Era of COVID-19](#) | [Safe Halloween Activities](#) | [Planning for the Holidays](#) | [Fun & Educational Apps for Fall](#) | [eBay Donations](#)

Helping Grandchildren Transition Back to School

Back to School in the Era of COVID-19:

The challenges of abrupt school closures in March left many students with disabilities and their families scrambling. With so much uncertainty about the school year ahead, families of kids in special education continue to have many concerns.

As schools are beginning to reopen now, schools must provide for students with disabilities. Children with IEP's and 504 plans should be reassessed to ensure that their programs and services are appropriate when their classes resume.

New hygiene protocols are now essential for keeping families safe - and grandparents can help to reinforce them. The Indiana Resource Center for Autism has some excellent [suggestions and visual cues](#) you can use with your grandchildren.

It has good advice and resources for grandparents and parents who are participating in Independent Education Plans (IEP's) and 504 plans when classes reconvene.

Increasing Support For Your Children - and Grandchildren

During this pandemic, our families are experiencing more stress than ever before. Tasks for caregivers have increased as professional autism support for families has decreased. Here are some ways you can help them now - and always:

- Compliment *everything* your grandchildren's parents are doing to meet their increased responsibilities - and ask what you can do to help them.
- Stay in frequent contact with them by phone, email, Facetime, Zoom, etc. Try to schedule a regular timeline that works best for them.

If you are able to see your grandchildren in person, you can help with homeschooling activities like:

- Reading together - and applying stories to their life
- Sorting snacks into colors, shapes, or textures (before eating them)

- Practice grounding techniques - such as counting to 10, reciting the alphabet, or listening to soothing music.
- Check out [Education.com](https://www.education.com) for free digital and printable learning resources you can share with them

If you can't see your grandchildren in person, send a care package that could include things like:

- Soft pajamas or a t-shirt with their favorite character
- Materials for their favorite hobby
- Their favorite allergy proof snack
- Gift cards for takeout meals
- Subscriptions for Disney+ or other streaming entertainment
- A set of soundproof headphones
- A stuffed animal
- Fun puzzles, books and fidgets ([check out this article for specific fidget ideas](#))

Safe Halloween Activities

Trunk or Treat

This is a trend that started a few years ago that involves a small group of friends / family / church groups meeting in a parking lot and handing out Halloween treats from the highly decorated trunks of their cars. This set up easily allows for social distancing (especially if everyone is wearing masks) and can provide a safe, fun environment for trick or treating.



Halloween Parade

Form or join a Halloween Parade where kids and families walk or bike or wagon through the neighborhood while social distancing and giving and receiving candy OR drive by trick or treating where costumed kids stay in their front yards while friends and family drive by throwing candy!

Halloween Movie Marathon

Have a fun movie marathon either inside or outside with a projector. Some great movies:

Goosebumps

Hocus Pocus

Nightmare Before Christmas

Monster House

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

Planning For The Holidays

Plan NOW to Make "Virtual" Holiday Celebrations Special

- Invite family members and friends from different countries and cities to "Save the Date" for a pre-scheduled holiday Zoom reunion
- Bake and freeze holiday cookies and treats to send later or order some from a local bakery or online to be delivered
- Begin to work on the handcrafted gifts you plan to give

- Ask for a list of gifts your grandchildren would like so you will be ready for online and Black Friday sales
- Design fun holiday (or any day) tactile greeting cards with your message of love and encouragement

10 DIY Handmade (3D) Greeting Cards



10 Stunning DIY Handmade Greeting Cards | Paper Craft Ideas

Fun & Educational Apps For Fall



ABA Flash Cards & Games - Emotions

This app provides children with a simple and fun way to recognize 100 emotions. Users are taught how to understand and respond to these emotions once they have been identified. [IOS Version](#)



Procreate

The [Procreate design app](#) lets users sketch, paint, doodle, animate and create, no matter what their skill level is. It includes hundreds of differently-styled brushes, and a layering system for control over details and composition. The app costs \$10, and works on iPhone and iPad.



Time Timer

A visual countdown app that helps with time management for school and other activities; it uses an iconic red disk that disappears as the seconds go by.

[IOS Version](#)



Hopster Saturday Club for Kids

The [Hopster Saturday Club for Kids](#) is a free app that helps with understanding emotions -- whether it be the child's own emotions or the emotions of others. Hopster uses mini-games to teach children to recognize facial expressions, match feelings to expressions, use emotional vocabulary, understand their own emotions and

feel and show empathy to others.



Math vs. Zombies 2

Solve math problems that let them rescue zombies and restore their humanity.

[IOS Verson](#)

eBay Donations: "Stay At Home" Cleaning

Now is the perfect time to sort through our cupboards, drawers and closets. Most of us have collectibles and other worthwhile items that our children do not want. Donations to the Grandparent Autism Network are tax-deductible. Create more space for all the fabulous things that you love AND benefit grandparents and families affected by autism.



All donated items are sold through our [e-Bay for Charity store](#), raising money to support our programs.

We welcome donated goods such as:

- New, unwanted gifts
- Collectibles, Home Accessories, Craft Items
- New Clothing, Shoes and Handbags

- Fine, Vintage, and Costume Jewelry
- Mobile Phones, Tablets and Laptops

You can mail or drop off donations for GAN at the UPS Store located at 23785 El Toro Road, #103, Lake Forest, CA. Please [check this website](#) for directions and hours of operation. Contact us at info@ganinfo.org for possible pickup options in Orange County, CA and for donation forms.

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
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