

Online Learning, Technology, and Devices During COVID-19: Findings from the Family Strengths Research Study

Online Learning, Technology, and Devices:

As schools have shifted to online learning during COVID-19, parents and caregivers have become educators at home. Online learning requires consistent access to internet and devices, which are not available to all families. Parents struggle with meeting their children's educational needs while balancing working from home and other responsibilities. Many worry their children are falling behind in school.



How are Families with Doing with Online Learning, Technology, and Devices in Western PA?

Among families who completed the [Family Strengths Survey](#), less than half of parents reported being able to safely supervise and help their child learn as much as they wanted. While all children need access to internet and devices to complete their remote learning goals, **8% of households** lacked adequate internet and **17%** lacked adequate devices.

Additionally, parents report the challenges of transitioning to online learning:

- *"Homeschooling is not working at all! ... **It took two weeks** for me to understand how to set up the links to all of their online classes, log in to everything, get in touch with all of their teachers. I barely understand this and can't help them!"*
- *"My son has special needs... **I'm supposed to get a laptop for home school after being denied last week**, but none of that is addressing his special mental health needs."*
- *"It feels **nearly impossible and totally overwhelming** to juggle two full time jobs, educate children and maintain their wellbeing 24/7."*

Here are Programs That Can Help:

The [Pitt Community Tech Support Help Desk](#) is available for any community members who may be struggling with technology during this time.

The [Pitt Office of Child Development](#) has resources to help support [parents reading to children at home](#), as well as [daily mindfulness moments for young people](#).



The [Carnegie Library](#) offers several online resources to support young people's creativity and growth, including homework help.

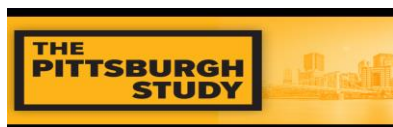
The [Children's Museum of Pittsburgh](#) offers several fun, intellectually stimulating activities for young people to engage with virtually.



The [Allegheny Intermediate Unit \(AIU\)](#) is a regional public education agency and a crucial part of Pennsylvania's public education system. Their educators, administrators and support staff provide specialized services to Allegheny County's suburban school districts as well as non-public, charter and vocational-technical schools.

About this Study: The Family Strengths Study is a weekly survey of parents or expecting parents in Western PA. The study is a collaboration between UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP), University of Pittsburgh (Pitt), United Way, and the Allegheny County Health Department and Department of Human Services. This survey is part of the Pittsburgh Study and made possible through support from the CHP Foundation, Pitt Department of Pediatrics, The Grable Foundation, and The Shear Family Foundation.

For more information, visit <https://www.pediatrics.pitt.edu/family-strengths-sur>



Who do I contact for more information? For more information please contact: Family Strengths Survey team at PGHstudy@pitt.edu

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