



**Childhood Education
International™**

Bright Futures for Every Child, Every Nation

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A Message from CE International CEO Diane Whitehead

First and foremost, our thoughts go out to friends and colleagues around the world who have been coping with the implications of COVID-19 in their communities. Everyone's health and well-being is our primary concern, so please ensure that you are following the professional advice to protect yourself, your family, and those around you.

Although children have largely been spared the serious health consequences of the virus, their lives have nevertheless been significantly disrupted. For children who are already living in compromised conditions—situations of poverty, war and conflict zones, refugee camps, communities of the world without access to sanitation, clean water, and healthcare providers—this is a particularly dangerous time.

Furthermore, a crucial element of stability has been jeopardized for millions of children worldwide as an unprecedented wave of schools have made the difficult decision to close, or have been instructed by their school systems to close, in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19. Schools provide a place for learning, development, and social interaction. More importantly, they often provide the necessary daily nutrition to children and serve as safe havens for children who may be living in challenging home and community situations. The bottom line is that when schools are disrupted, children's daily lives change significantly.

Our global education force is responding to the many challenges that this crisis is presenting. Where possible, many schools are rapidly shifting to virtual classes in order to maintain a routine and keep children engaged. Parents are taking on new roles to organize their child's learning environment and they are working in coordination with teachers.

However, many places in the world do not have access to online communications platforms, which leaves a significant number of children without an option to continue their learning. For these children, it is paramount that we continue exploring alternative education options.

We realize the amount of information circulating the internet makes it difficult to choose educational resources to use. To help you navigate through the myriad tools available, CE International has put together a [list of resources](#). We hope that you will find this list a support to you as you look for ways to continue the education and learning of children during this crisis.

During these times, we must be very thankful and supportive to teachers, school leaders, parents, and everyone involved in children's education. We are fortunate to live in a technologically interconnected world, and we must assist the global education community in broadly sharing messages of hope, encouragement, and support. Globally connected schools and teachers have never been more essential. We must remain committed to education by sharing creative and innovative ways to keep children engaged in learning.

When Apollo 11 landed on the moon in 1969, humanity saw for the first time the image of the earth from a distance, a borderless orb. Since then, many have forgotten the significance of that perspective. However, we are now being reminded of this reality, and we must transcend borders to tackle a challenge that affects every last one of us.

Diane Whitehead