As soon as we received the first message about school and afterschool closures in mid March, our team got to work. We have 25 graduate student coordinators and more than 150 undergraduate instructors and program assistants across our CBL programs working with our partnering organizations to create resources and live sessions for our children and their families. To make sure you receive our newsletters that will be published every other week, please register here.
“Nature Near You” is an opportunity to explore the beautiful outdoor spaces that we can find near our homes, without the need to embark on a long journey. Through this exciting online activity I will take you on a hike on the mountains that I call my backyard. You will be joining students from Santa Barbara and Goleta and even from Costa Rica! As we hike, we will stop and observe nature together.

The Virtual REEF
To be hosted by Scott Simon (Director of the Reef at UCSB)

As director of the UCSB Teaching Aquarium, The Research Experience & Education Facility (REEF), and a Native of SB, I am VERY excited to share that, in collaboration with CBL and programs like LEAFY, we will soon be launching The Virtual REEF. Soon, you will be able to sing-a-long with the Days of The REEF, where each day, we will explore different Ocean-related topics-Submersible Sunday!, Mollusc Monday!, Temperate Tuesday! Ocean World Wednesday! OWW! We'll go totally Tropical Thursday! Fishy Friday! And, Shell-fie Saturday. And....We'll also be hosting the Living REEF!
Community Challenge

Rube-Goldberg Challenge: Led by Matt Shackley

CBL is hosting a Rube-Goldberg Machine Challenge! What is a Rube-Goldberg Machine? - It is a complex machine of interconnected parts that work together to complete a simple task.

Now it's your turn to carefully plan and build a Rube-Goldberg machine at home! With a parent's permission, use anything you can find around the house to build a machine that completes a simple task (like flipping a light switch) in as many steps as possible.

The deadline to participate in the challenge is May 7, 2020!

Click here to check the challenge
Lessons from Family Services
by Ryan Arellano

As we encounter these unprecedented times, our family services have gone completely online! While we had anticipated some issues, our instructors have exhibited confidence and flexibility in meeting our families’ literacy needs online. Here are some things we have learned along the way:

- Children are extraordinarily resilient and kind. Their openness during this time has made instruction easier to navigate.

- Online platforms take some time to set up and get comfortable with and that’s okay.

- Consistency is good for us! Setting up weekly instructional times helps solidify routine and familiarity for our children.

- While we primarily help with literacy-oriented instruction, we realize that during this time some families need additional homework help, whether that is in language arts, mathematics, science, or writing. We are willing to help in whatever capacity we can!

- Sometimes less is more. We have found that using simple and readily available tools, like Google docs, can be just as useful than implementing an elaborate and time-consuming lesson plan requiring 4-5 apps. Our kids want us to listen, show some empathy, and give them at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted attention. These are all free and available from our instructors.

Please feel free to contact McEnroe’s family services at education-readingclinic@ucsb.edu if you are interested in 1-on-1 instructional sessions.