

VIRTUAL AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK

WEEK OF APRIL 13-17



Generously funded by The Children's Trust in partnership with Nova Southeastern University



WWW.NOVA.EDU/PROJECTRISE



THE MISSION

Each week, Project RISE will send out an activity that you can do virtually with the children in your program, either in a live, online session or by sending a video with instructions to parents. The activities are intended to give children opportunities to learn, express themselves, and feel connected to you and their after-school friends. Providing this on a weekly basis during this difficult time can also help to strengthen your relationship with the children, families, and communities you serve.



PREPARATION

We encourage your staff to create a quick video explaining and showing what to do. The children will be thrilled to see and hear from you. Take a picture of the written instructions on page 6 and email or text it with your video.

MATERIALS

The screenshot shows the 'Discovery Education's PUZZLEMAKER' website. It features a purple header with the title and navigation links for 'HOME', 'HELP', 'LICENSING & CONTACT'. Below the header, there is a brief introduction: 'To create your word search, follow the steps below and click the "Create My Word Search" button when you are done.' The page is divided into six numbered steps:

- STEP 1.** Enter the title for your word search. The title will appear at the top of your page. IMPORTANT: Puzzle titles are limited to 40 characters. Example: 'After-School Hidden Message Puzzle'.
- STEP 2.** Enter the message to be hidden in your word search puzzle. The letters in the message will be hidden between the words you input below. When the person solving the puzzle finds all the words, the hidden message will be revealed. Example: 'Project Rise misses you and sends you'.
- STEP 3.** Enter the size of your word search puzzle. Your puzzle can be up to 40 letters by 40 letters and still fit on one page. The optimum puzzle size is 25 letters by 25 letters. Input fields show 'Number of Letters Across' and 'Number of Letters Down', both set to 12.
- STEP 4.** Word search puzzle output type. Radio buttons are provided for: HTML (Choose this option if you plan on printing the puzzle directly from the browser.), Text (Choose this option if you plan on cutting and pasting the puzzle to a different application.), and Lowercase Text (Same as "Text" excepts letters are lowercase.).
- STEP 5.** Enter your words. Separate your words with commas, spaces or type each word on a new line. Any character that is not a letter will be considered a space. Example input: 'three', 'to', 'today', 'together'.
- STEP 6.** Check your puzzles. A note states: 'Puzzlemaker uses a word filter to prevent the random creation of offensive words. After you create your puzzle, proofread it carefully to check for the placement of unintended words created by random letter combinations. You can regenerate your puzzle by selecting the "Back" button in your browser and pressing the "Create" button again.' A 'Create My Puzzle!' button is at the bottom.

- <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com> to create a puzzle online
- A list of words to use (see the attached list for suggested sight words)
- A hidden message idea

OVERVIEW

Your after-school program can make a puzzle that allows you to send your children a reassuring custom message while they practice finding common sight words. Children will also be encouraged to create their own puzzle for you to solve and send out to other children of the same age to solve as well, if you'd like.

CREATE IT

Go to www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/ and click on the "Hidden Message" puzzle. Add your words, a hidden message, and adjust the puzzle size to make it easy enough for your children to solve. We used 15 sight words and made the puzzle 12 letters by 12 letters. You can make different puzzles by grade level to distribute if you'd like. Once you are done, copy and paste it into the document, then save it as PDF or JPEG.

SHARE IT



Share the finished puzzle with families, challenge the children to complete the puzzle, and invite them to create one of their own to share with other children in the program and for staff to solve. (Families without printers at home can use the photo editing function on their phone or tablets to mark up the puzzle.)

Project RISE would love to see your finished creations!



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INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILIES



Here is an activity for your children to practice sight words!

1. Search for the sight words listed in the puzzle and cross them off as they find them.
2. When they are done, fill in the remaining letters in the spaces below to find the hidden message.



If your children find this fun, give them 5-10 words for them to create their own puzzle. This can be a great way to practice their spelling words that they might be working on! Take a picture or scan the puzzle they created and send it back to us for our staff to try to solve and share with other children as well!