

# REMOTE LEARNING GUIDE FOR PARENTS

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## **2. Minimize clutter**

After designating a safe space for learning, focus on removing distractions. Too many puzzles, books and supplies can crowd a space and create a feeling of chaos.

## **3. Keep the learning environment as accessible as possible**

Kids feel comfortable choosing their next activity without having to ask for help. Do not pack the shelves too full. Children learn better when they have a few highly engaging items to choose from.

## **4. Make the space functional, but personalized**

You can create various learning stations where different subjects and topics will be covered. Eg: you could zone off a creative corner for art projects, a desk for writing, a cozy area for reading and a dedicated spot for mathematics, science, geography, history etc.

The home learning environment should be inspiring and motivating. Showcase some projects and making it a fun environment. Consider alphabet, colours, animals for younger children and maps, science experiments, pictures of history to double as another learning tool.

Each family's home-school space will look very different. It is important to let your child make the space to be theirs in some way.

## **5. Establish a tech rule**

It is most important if your children are attending online classes and accessing online resources that you implement a tech rule and teach them about digital safety.

It is important that all electronic equipment is charged the evening before so that children do not have downtime for them to wait to attend lessons or log on to sites.

If a lesson does not require the electronic equipment, keep the devices out of reach so they are not distracted.

## **6. Set daily routines**

By establishing daily routines, your child will get into a regular habit of getting work done. Work together with your child to schedule their daily routine. Schedule everything including meal times, bath times, relax times and school work.

After your child gets into a rhythm, you can begin to observe and understand their interactions: when they crave food, when tempers flare, when they start to mentally fatigue. This will help you adapt to their learning methods and help you understand when they might need assistance and encouragement.

Times	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Frid
8:00 to 8:30					
8:30 to 9:00					
9:00 to 9:30					
9:30 to 10:00					
10:00 to 10:30					
10:30 to 11:00					
11:00 to 11:30					
11:30 to 12:00					
12:00 to 12:30					
12:30 to 13:00					
13:00 to 13:30					
13:30 to 14:00					
14:00 to 14:30					
14:30 to 15:00					
15:00 to 15:30					

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## 8 Practices in the home learning environment

**These 8 practices will help your child feel confident and comfortable when learning at home:**

### 1. Prioritize learning

When you as a parent make learning important, children will value education. Reading is one of the biggest promotions to learning. For younger children it is important for parents to read to them. Children that see parents reading promotes reading in children. We want children to move from “I don’t want to read to I want to read”.

### 2. Pay attention to learning gaps

It is important to note when your child starts avoiding a particular task or subject. Once you realize that there is an issue you need to address it immediately. It could be that the child is confused by a topic, technical information etc. Work together with your child over the next week to ensure that they get interested in the subject again.

### 3. Do more with your children instead of doing things for them

Instead of doing things for your child, do things with them. It is important for children to learn confidence and self-reliance through participating in everyday activities. Knowing they can contribute to the family gives them a sense of self work and belonging to the family.

**Eg:** if you find your child is not understanding a maths problem, don’t solve the problem for them. Instead work with them on what they are having difficulty with and give them the tools and let them reach the solution on their own.

Be mindful of not jumping in to fix things but create a safe space that allows for mistakes. Children learn from making mistakes and allowing them that freedom will allow for additional learning to take place.

### 4. Encourage play

#### For younger children:

Open ended play is the key to letting your child’s imagination soar which strengthen brain connections and deepens their understanding of the world. Provide wooden block, play kitchen, blank paper and many books. At a young age the best learning opportunities are from play and not academics.

Play contributes to cognitive, social, emotional, physical development and encourages self-confidence and boosts self-esteem.

Include physical, exploring, creative and pretend play.

### **5. Have your child take up a hobby**

Learn a new skill with your child to improve learning habits. Hobbies are expressions of personal accomplishment and self-discovery. They can help children set goals, make decisions and build self-esteem.

### **6. Serve healthy meals and snacks**

Serve the children healthy snacks and meals. Very sugary foods will not nourish the brain and children will get fatigued more quickly.

### **7. Switch up with non-traditional learning**

Take advantage of non-traditional opportunities. Home improvement projects, cleaning, cooking. Ask questions that children may not think to ask. Especially with younger children, spending time together and communicating allows you to create a new learning experience and make learning fun.

### **8. Leave room for failure**

You have to let children fail and be transparent about your own failures which in turn creates a positive learning environment. This allows children to grow, accept that life is full of challenges and it is okay to fail, to not be hard on yourself and allow them to grow.

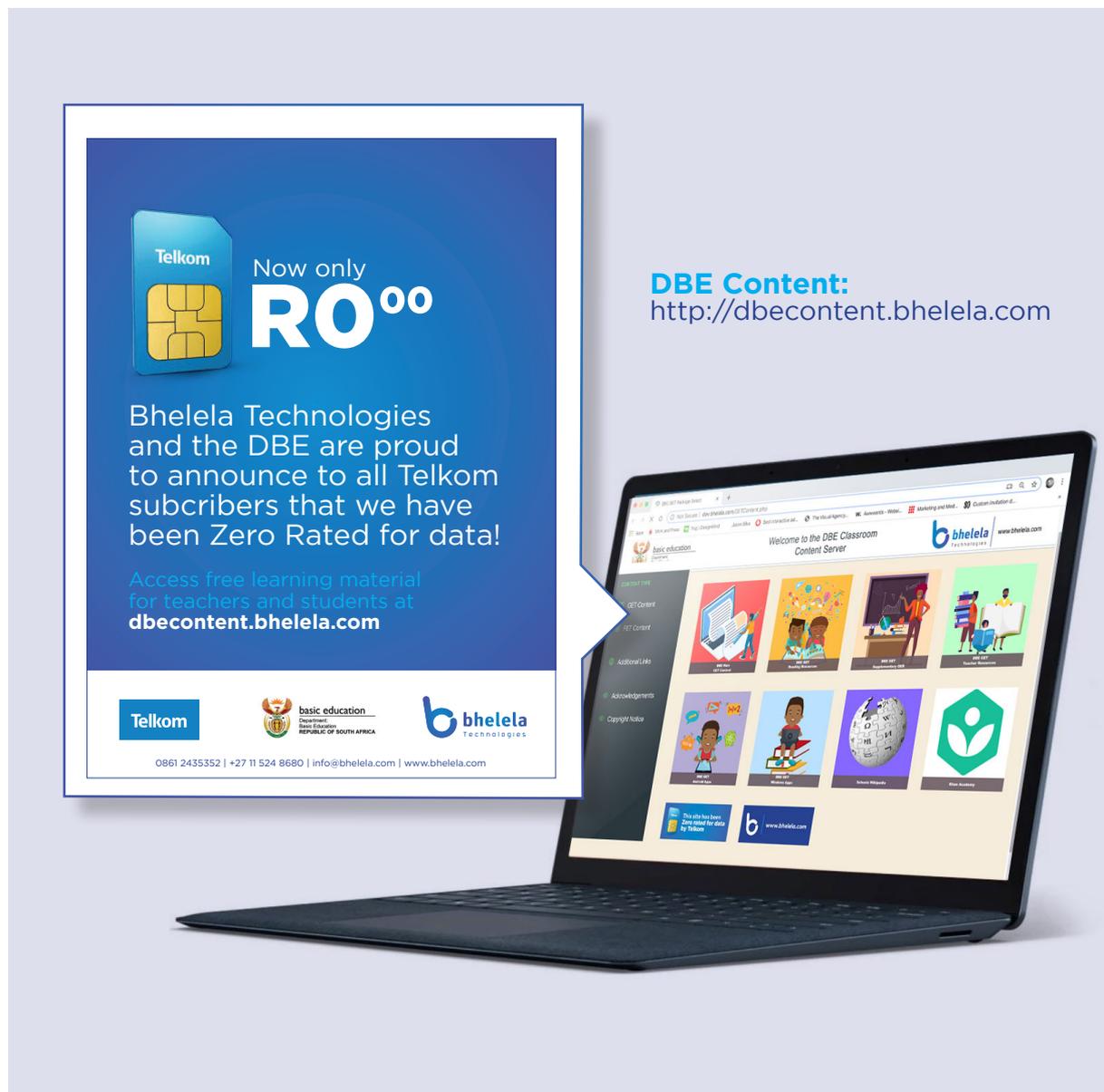


## Using online learning to keep learners learning during the lockdown

Many schools have asked parents to ensure learning continues at home. Online learning is an obvious way to keep lessons going but not all schools have established on line learning.

There are many online resources that have opened up their content for free access while schools are closed during the COVID 19 lockdown.

**Bhelela Technologies have opened our web portal in order to host the DBE content online. This includes the GET and FET resources and is searchable according to grade and subject.**



The advertisement features a central graphic with a blue background. At the top left is a Telkom SIM card icon. To its right, the text reads "Now only **RO<sup>00</sup>**". Below this, a white text block states: "Bhelela Technologies and the DBE are proud to announce to all Telkom subscribers that we have been Zero Rated for data!". Underneath, it says "Access free learning material for teachers and students at [dbecontent.bhelela.com](http://dbecontent.bhelela.com)". At the bottom of the graphic are logos for Telkom, basic education (Department of Basic Education, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA), and bhelela Technologies, along with contact information: "0861 2435352 | +27 11 524 8680 | info@bhelela.com | www.bhelela.com". To the right of the graphic, a laptop displays the "DBE Content" website interface, which includes a navigation menu and a grid of content categories like "GET Content", "FET Content", "Additional Life", "Acknowledgments", and "Copyright Notice". A speech bubble points from the laptop screen to the main text area.

**DBE Content:**  
<http://dbecontent.bhelela.com>

Parents who have access to open source school learning materials can exchange and share with others using google drive. Zoom, Google Hangouts, Skype and Google meets are also great platforms for live group learning and tutoring.

Both Microsoft and google have announced free access to conferencing services which normally have a subscription rate. Parents can take advantage of this for individual or group learning.

**Data and access:**

South African telecommunication networks have zero-rated many learning sites which means the material can be downloaded for free. This makes a huge difference to parents who have limited data plans and are worried about running up online bills.

You can also consider buying night time bulk data options for off-peak downloads which is often much cheaper.

This is an extraordinary situation and no one really knows how long it will be before schools reopen. You as parents need to try different approaches and websites to see what works for you and your child. Be prepared to learn along with your kids and have FUN.



**Call: 086143535**  
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