Read to Lead, Hip Hop Thursdays, and More!
May 27, 2020

Resource Spotlight: Read to Lead

We recently spoke with Kwamara Thompson, Director of Programs and Partnerships with Classroom, Inc. Kwamara has been Classroom, Inc. for the past four years, working to provide programs with no cost professional development and digital learning platforms. Classroom, Inc. is a national non-profit organization, headquartered in NYC, which works to re-engage readers in their education through digital literacy learning games and programming known as Read to Lead.

With programs still closed and the future of in person programming remaining uncertain, Read to Lead offers a virtual literacy learning platform. Better yet, it is free for anyone to use! Read to Lead is more than a digital literacy learning platform, it is a game, where students are empowered to be the boss while reading their way through a virtual internship. It is a fun, engaging, and relevant way to blast through traditional reading barriers and promote workplace readiness and skill building. By playing their learning games, youth increase reading achievement, find motivation, and see, often for the first time, a real connection between learning, career aspirations, and their futures.

Read to Lead is geared for students in 5th - 9th grades and provides a diverse representation of characters to showcase that ALL students can be the Boss! In one episode of game play, youth will spend 20-30 minutes reading 5000 words. During just one-episode youth will have the opportunity to practice reading comprehension, enhance vocabulary, learn, and practice work skills.
In addition, Classroom Inc. is working with organizations across the country to offer professional development outside of just Read to Lead trainings. Some of the topics they have been assisting programs with include Foundational Skills: “Virtual Learning Do’s and Don’ts,” “I’m a Remote Educator, Now What?” and Programmatic Support: “Online Project Based Learning,” “Google Classroom Integration,” “Read to Lead in a Remote Learning Environment.”

If you would like to know more about the opportunities Classroom, Inc. has to offer, please contact Kwamara Thompson, or click on the link above to learn more.

If you would like to share how your program has been able to stay in contact with your community, feel free to fill out our questionnaire.

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**COVID-19 Resources**

Please see the attached documents released in response to the growing concern around COVID-19. Take a moment to read this information and familiarize yourself with the content. We will be updating this section of the newsletter every week with new materials.

- (5/05) Dear Child Care Provider Letter
- (5/01) DOH COVID-19 Testing Information
- (4/26) DOH Updated Guidance for COVID-19
- (4/26) Clarification of the Terms Serious Incident, Serious Injury, Serious Condition, Communicable Disease and When to Obtain Emergency Medical Care
- (4/17) Interim Guidance on Executive Orders 202.17 and 202.18 Requiring Face Coverings in Public During the COVID-19 Outbreak
- (4/14) Interim Guidance on Required Face Coverings

For more information, a plethora of other resources, and additional updates check out our [COVID-19 resource page](#).

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**Hip Hop Party**

Teens Under Construction (TUC) has the goal to foster an atmosphere of self discovery in which students ages 14-21 can feel free to imagine, create, and collaborate with peers. With Hip Hop Thursdays, Yocasta Jimenez, aka Ms. Yogi of TUC, aims to inspire the next generation to experiment with unique ideas, lyrics and beats with intention, and understanding the importance of our words and how they affect the world around us. They would like to invite your youth to join as they start to build this project.

Please email Ms. Yogi with any further inquires.
**Policy Corner: It's National Afterschool and Summer Advocacy Week!**

We are both celebrating and promoting afterschool and summer learning programs all week! Not only are we highlighting the many ways providers have risen to the moment during the COVID-19 pandemic but also the critical role they will continue to play in supporting youth and families as we look toward recovery. We will continue to highlight providers until the end of the week and you can help!

**What you can do:**

Share your inspiring, challenging, or hopeful moments on social media using the hashtags #AfterschoolWorks and #OSTMatters. Don't forget to mention us @NYSYouthSuccess

Contact Congress & amplify the critical role of afterschool programs in our plans for recovery – go to [www.3to6.co/Congress](http://www.3to6.co/Congress)

Join the “Virtual Town Hall: #AfterschoolWorks to Support Learning & Recovery” on Thursday, May 28 at 6PM ET - Register at [www.3to6.co/TownHall](http://www.3to6.co/TownHall) and submit your questions for the panelists to hear them answered live!

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**Network for Youth Success Events**

**6/1 - 6/4: Trauma-Informed Practice in Afterschool, Virtual Training**
Discover the role that afterschool programs play in helping children survive and thrive after traumatic experiences. Using trauma-informed care research, this workshop will explore how afterschool programs can be safe places for all children. Emphasis will be on practices in afterschool, including interactions with children and program development. This workshop is for all afterschool, summer, and expanded learning time staff who want to integrate trauma-informed practices into their programs.

- For those who cannot attend the training at its original designated time (9:30 AM - 11:30 AM), this training will now be available on June 1 from 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM. To register for this training, [click here](http://www.3to6.co/Congress).

Note: When registering please try to sign up for the training dedicated to your region. If you are unable to attend that training, you may sign up for another. Each training is limited to limit 60 participants. To register, [click here](http://www.3to6.co/Congress).

**8/20 & 8/25: Health and Safety Training for Directors, Troy, NY**
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! [Click here](http://www.3to6.co/Congress).

**9/23: Fall SAC Credential Course, Capital District**
The New York State Network for Youth Success administers the New York State School Age Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. For those interested, [click here](#).

**9/2020 - 12/2020: Distance Learning**
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. [We are now enrolling for Fall 2020](#).

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**Other Events**

**5/28: Financial and Economic Impact on NY Amid Coronavirus Pandemic**
As New York tries to get the spread of coronavirus under control, it still has to reckon with major changes to its financial services industry, as well as the broader economy of the state. Over one million New Yorkers have filed for unemployment due to COVID-19 related job loss/reduced pay, and the ripple effects include a loss of tax revenue that could exacerbate upcoming budget cuts. How are we going to deal with all of this? Hear from NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, and NYS Department of Financial Services Superintendent Linda A. Lacewell in this upcoming webinar. For more information, [click here](#).

**6/1: Kindness, Empathy, and SEL**
Students come to us with their own emotions, triggers, and trauma. When students see respect, empathy, and kindness modeled, they are more likely to respond in similar ways; but it is not enough to just model social and emotional skills, these must be strategically and continually taught. Join BOOST Cafe for tools and resources to support students through kindness, empathy, and SEL learning. For more information, [click here](#) and scroll down.

**6/1 - 6/26: Rise Up for Equity: Virtual Summit on Community Schools and Family Engagement!**
Starting on June 1st, there will be 20 days of plenary, workshop, and deep-dive sessions! The virtual summit offers the best of both worlds, combining the content, networks and expertise from IEL’s flagship events, the Community Schools National Forum and the National Family and Community Engagement Conference. Become immersed in multiple events, learn more about innovative and proven practices, approaches and research from grassroots to systems efforts to co-create equitable communities. You no longer need to choose between experiences - participate as your schedule permits and/or watch a recording at your own convenience. To register, [click here](#).

**6/3: Jumpstarting Your ECE Career**
Join Continuing Development Inc. as they explore how you can turn your ECE/CD units into a meaningful career working with children. The training will cover everything from obtaining a permit, tips on interviewing, the various career pathways both in and out of the classroom, as well as the impact you can make in your community. For more information, [click here](#) and scroll down.
Ways You Can Help the Network!

Choose us as your non-profit through Amazon Smile, donate, become a member, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or check out our website!

School's Out, Make it Count! Partners

Please take a moment to view some of our partners for the School's Out, Make it Count! 2020 Annual Conference. Each one offers a variety of resources to the field. Check out their websites for more information by clicking on their name:

- Early Care and Learning Council
- The Buffalo Police Athletic League
Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
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