

Home School User Guide

North Tonawanda Public Library Resources

How to use this guide: Listed below are subjects that need to be covered according to the home school guidelines for NYS. If you have any questions, please refer to your local Home School organization.

At the North Tonawanda Public Library and throughout the NIOGA system, we have many free resources for your children. We have organized them according to subject. Each subject shows where to look on the shelves for books, a short list of few books (there are many more), some free databases that the library provides for citizens of Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee Counties, websites that have free things to help your kids learn, and some ideas for activities.

Here are some great databases provided by NIOGA for your kids to use (Please access these databases by visiting nioga.org and then clicking on the [databases link](#) on the left-hand side). Britannica School and Kids Infobits have information for all parts of the curriculum, even though we haven't included them in every list:

[Britannica School](#): Has separate sections for elementary, middle, and high school kids, as well as a dedicated Fundamentals section for kids K-2, with games, art projects, and more to make learning fun. It also has lesson plans for adults to use with kids!

[Britannica Escolar](#): Tiene secciones distintas para niños de primaria, secundaria, y preparatoria, y además una sección dedicada a los conceptos básicos para niños de edades K-12 con juegos, proyectos de arte, y más para hacer divertido el aprender. También tiene planes de lecciones que los adultos pueden usar con los niños.

[Kids Infobits](#): Perfect for elementary school kids, it's divided by common subjects kids search by, as well as the type of content. It has videos, articles, and pictures.

[Novelist Plus](#): Find book recommendations here. You can search by a variety of factors, including age level, lexile level, things you like in books (plot, characters, tone, etc), and author/title read-alikes.

[Tumblebooks Library](#): Reads popular books to kids, complete with animation, music, and narration.

Pre-K- 6 th Grade	
Patriotism and Citizenship	
Library Area	Non-fiction – J320-J324.973
Books	<p><i>Give Us the Vote!: Over 200 Years of Fighting for the Ballot</i> by Susan Rubin—J324.6209 Rubi</p> <p><i>How to be a Good Citizen: A Question and Answer Book About Citizenship</i> by Emily James—J323.65 Jame</p> <p><i>Vote For Our Future!</i> by Margaret McNamara- J Pic McNamara</p> <p><i>What Are Elections?</i> by Bobi Martin –J324.973 Mart</p> <p><i>What Can A Citizen Do?</i> by Dave Eggers – J323.65 Egge</p> <p><i>When You Grow Up To Vote: How Our Government Works For You</i> by Eleanor Roosevelt—J324.973 Roos</p>
Databases & Websites	Ben's Guide to the US government http://bensguide.gpo.gov/ Kids Infobits Social Studies subject, Government and Civics subject
Activities	Visit a local government organization: Town Hall, Fire and Police Department and Library Participate in kid's voting : https://www.kidsvotingusa.org/
Health and Substance Abuse	
Library Area	Non-fiction – J610-J618, J641.5-J641.8653
Books	<i>All About Sleep From A to Zzzz</i> by Elaine Scott—J612.821 Scot

	<p><i>The Berenstain Bears And the Drug Free Zone</i> by Stan Berenstain. – J Pic Berenstain</p> <p><i>Bill Nye The Science Guy's Great Big Book Of Tiny Germs</i> by Bill Nye—J571.6382 Nye</p> <p><i>Cooking Step by Step</i> by DK—J641.5123 Cook</p> <p><i>Gross Body Science: Clot and Scab</i> by Kristi Lew—J716.1 Lew</p> <p><i>The Monster Health Book: a Guide To Eating Healthy, Active, & Feeling Great For Monsters & Kids!</i> By Edward Miller—J613.7 Mill</p> <p><i>Oh The Things You Can Do That Are Good For You</i> by Tish Rabe- J613 Rabe</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Choose my plate http://www.choosemyplate.gov/kids</p> <p>Eat right https://www.eatright.org/for-kids</p> <p>Gale Onefile Culinary Collection: Through the NIOGA databases page</p> <p>KidsHealth: www.kidshealth.org</p> <p>Kids Infobits Health subject</p>
Activities	<p>Cooking with healthy recipes</p> <p>Have your child lay down and trace their body- then label the parts of the body while listing what they do</p> <p>Create a family healthy cookbook</p>
Highway Safety and Traffic Regulations (Including Bike Safety)	
Library Area	Non-fiction J613.6, J796.6
Books	<p><i>Safe on Your Bike</i> by Rosemary Jennings—J796.6028 Jenn</p> <p><i>Bicycle Safety</i> by Lisa Herrington—J796.6 Herr</p> <p><i>Traffic Safety</i> by Nancy Loewen—J613.68 Loew</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Kid's page https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/811026.pdf</p>
Activities	<p>Print out a drawing of a person then have your child draw protective gear while explaining how it protects the person</p> <p>Take a walk outside and point out dangers then talk to your child about how they can stay safe</p>
Fire and Arson Prevention and Safety	
Library Area	Non-fiction J628.92-J628.9259
Books	<p><i>Stop, Drop, And Roll</i> by Margery Cuyler – J Pic Cuyler</p> <p><i>Fire Safety</i> by Lisa Herrington—J628.925 Herr</p> <p><i>Fly Guy Presents: Firefighters</i>—J628.925 Arno</p> <p><i>Mrs. Meyer is on Fire!</i>—J Fic Gutman</p> <p><i>What's It Really Like to be a Firefighter?</i> by Christine Honders—J363.3702 Hond</p>
Databases & Websites	Fire Safety for Kids http://www.firesafekids.org/
Activities	<p>Visit a fire station</p> <p>Make an action plan for if there is a fire; practice fire drills</p>

Mathematics	
Library Area	Non-fiction J510-519, J Concept Collection, Adult Nonfiction J510-519
Books	<p><i>Bed Time Math: The Truth Comes Out</i> by Laura Overdeck—J510 Over</p> <p><i>The Best of Time</i> by Greg Tang—J513.213 Tang</p> <p><i>Fractions, Decimals, Percents</i> by David Adler—J513.26 Adle</p> <p><i>Fun With Roman Numerals</i> by David Adler—J513.5 Adle</p> <p><i>Midnight Math: Twelve Terrific Math Games</i> by Peter Ledwon –J793.74</p> <p><i>Perimeter, Area, and Volume: A Monster Book of Dimensions</i> by David Adler—J516.15 Adle</p> <p><i>Shape by Shape</i> by Suse MacDonald—J Concept collection MacDonald</p> <p><i>Tyrannosaurus Math</i> by Michelle Markel—J513 Mark</p> <p><i>You Can't Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime</i> by Harriet Ziefert—J513.2 Zief</p> <p><i>Zero</i> by Kathryn Otoshi—J Concept collection Otoshi</p>
Databases & Websites	Math is Fun http://www.mathsisfun.com/index.htm
Activities	<p>Make a pizza or pie cut it into fractions</p> <p>Make play money and play store</p> <p>Make times tables, find patterns and color coordinate the patterns found</p>
Reading	
Library Area	For young readers we have picture books, easy readers, and juvenile fiction; nonfiction for adults: Parent Collection, adult collection nonfiction 011-016, 372.4, phonics videos at J372.465
Books	<p>For adults we have some titles to guide you in teaching your child to read:</p> <p><i>The Between the Lions Book for Parents: Everything you need to know to help your child learn to read</i> by Linda K. Rath—372.41 Rath</p> <p><i>Book Crush</i> by Nancy Pearl—J028.55 Pear, Parent Coll.</p> <p><i>Raising an Active Reader: The Case for Reading Aloud to Engage Elementary School Youngsters</i> by Samantha Cleaver—372.4 Clea</p> <p><i>Read With Me: Engaging You Young Child in Active Reading</i> by Samantha Cleaver and Munro Richardson—372.4 Clea</p> <p><i>The Read-Aloud Handbook</i> by Jim Trelease –J372.452 Trel, Parent Coll.</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Tumblebooks reads stories aloud to kids</p> <p>Britannica Schools—Fundamentals has a reading section</p> <p>Novelist—Find book recommendations here (and from your librarians)</p> <p>Between the Lions Early Reading videos on PBS.org - https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/k1.phonics/</p>
Activities	Read aloud at bed time

	<p>Read along with an audiobook, pointing out the words in the book as the narrator says them. We have cds, cd and book kits, and a large selection of Playaways.</p> <p>Have them practice reading to stuffed animals or family pets</p> <p>Storyhour at the library (when we're allowed to give these again!)</p> <p>Winter and Summer reading programs at the library</p> <p>Let your kids pick books that interest them, along with ones they need for school</p>
Spelling	
Library Area	Dictionaries can be found at J423; J428.1
Books	<p>Try a children's dictionary, for example: Scholastic First Dictionary</p> <p><i>Spelling Rules</i> by Ann Heinrichs—J428.13 Hein</p>
Databases & Websites	PBS Spelling Games - http://pbskids.org/games/spelling/
Activities	<p>When practicing writing a word have your child use a different color for vowels</p> <p>Candy paint words – use chocolate syrup as paint and then paint the words out</p> <p>Magnetic cookie sheets with dollar-store alphabet magnets are a great way to learn to spell</p>
Writing	
Library Area	Non-fiction J808-808.3876
Books	<p><i>Look! I Wrote a Book! (And You Can Too!)</i> by Sally Lloyd-Jones—J808.3 Lloy</p> <p><i>The Pirates of Plagiarism</i> by Kathleen Fox—J808 Fox</p> <p><i>Share Your Smile: Raina's Guide to Telling Your Own Story</i> by Raina Telgemeier—J808.02 Telg</p> <p><i>What is Informational Writing?</i> by Charlotte Guillain—J808.02 Guil</p> <p><i>Writing Radar: Using Your Journal To Scoop Out And Craft Great Stories</i> by Jack Gantos—J808.02 Gant</p> <p><i>Writing Winning Reports and Essays</i> by Paul Janeczko—J 808.042 Jane</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>K12 reader - http://www.k12reader.com/subject/grammar/parts-of-a-sentence/</p> <p>NaNoWriMo Young Writer's Program- https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/</p>
Activities	<p>Make Sentence diagrams</p> <p>Make adjective cards and have your child place them around the house to describe items</p> <p>Play a verb game where you list a verb and then perform the action</p> <p>Have your kids write a letter to a relative, friend, or author they admire (or help them write one for younger kids)</p>
Geography	
Library Area	J910-913
Books	<p><i>Barefoot Books World Atlas</i> by Nick Crane—J912 Cran</p> <p><i>Beginner's United States Atlas</i> by National Geographic—J912.73 Begi</p> <p><i>Geography</i> by Dan Gutman—J910 Gutm</p>

	<p><i>The Kingfisher Geography Encyclopedia</i> by Clive Gifford—J910.3 Giff</p> <p><i>Student World Atlas</i> by National Geographic—J912 Nati</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Britannica School Geography Explorer (game)</p> <p>Kids Infobits Geography section</p> <p>Science Kids - http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/geography.html</p>
Activities	<p>The Science Museum has a great department for this</p> <p>Make a visiting map where you put pins in all the places you visit or read about</p>
United States History and New York History (including Constitutions)	
Library Area	United States History: J973-979; New York History: J974.7-974.799; Erie Canal: J386.4809
Books	<p><i>Civil War</i> by John Stanchak—J973.7 Stan</p> <p><i>Encyclopedia of American Indian History & Culture</i> by National Geographic—J970.0049 Ency</p> <p><i>The Great Depression</i> by Steven Otfinoski—J330.973</p> <p><i>The Iroquois of the Northeast</i> by KaaVonia Hinton—J974.7004 Hint</p> <p><i>Lillian's right to vote : a celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965</i> by Jonah Winter —J Pic Winter</p> <p><i>The New York Colony</i> by Kevin Cunningham—J974.702 Cunn</p> <p><i>Question and Answer Encyclopedia of the USA</i> by Nicola Barber—J973 Ques</p> <p><i>Questions and Answers About the Erie Canal</i> by Sammi Jameson –J386.4809 Jame</p> <p><i>Suffragette: The Battle for Equality</i> by David Roberts—J324.623 Robe</p> <p><i>Vietnam War</i> by Tom Firme—J949.7043 Firm</p> <p><i>What is the Constitution?</i> by Patricia Demuth—J342.7302</p> <p><i>What Was The Underground Railroad?</i> by Yona Zeldis McDonough –J973.7115 Mcdo</p> <p><i>Words That Built a Nation: A Young Person's Collection of Historic American Documents</i> by Marilyn Miller—J973 Mill</p> <p><i>World War I : an interactive history adventure</i> by Gwenyth Swain—J940.3 Swai</p> <p><i>World War II</i> by Simon Adams –J940.54 Adam</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>NYS History Museum Online Portal for Educational Resources and Activities- http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/resources</p> <p>NYS History Museum's History Detectives Club (currently meeting virtually) https://www.nyhistory.org/childrens-museum/calendar-programs/reading-into-history</p> <p>Library of Congress: American memory http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html</p> <p>Chronology of US Historical Documents https://www.ushistory.org/documents/</p>
Activities	<p>Visit the Buffalo History Museum or North Tonawanda History Museum</p> <p>Visit battle reenactments</p> <p>Create your own collage timeline with pictures of historical documents, pictures and symbols</p>

Science (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and Earth Sciences)	
Library Area	Nonfiction J500-J599
Books	<p><i>Backyard Biology</i> by Donna Latham –J574 Lath</p> <p><i>The Big Bang Book</i> by Asa Stahl—J523.18</p> <p><i>Energy</i> by Emily Dodd –J531.6</p> <p><i>Fairground Physics: Motion, Momentum, and Magnets</i> by Angie Smibert—J530 Smib</p> <p><i>Hey There, Earth Dweller!</i> by Marc ter Horst—J550</p> <p><i>Kitchen Chemistry</i> by Cynthia Light Brown—J540.78</p> <p><i>Smithsonian Explanatorium of Science</i> by the Smithsonian—J500 Expl</p> <p><i>Things That Float and Things That Don't</i> by David Adler—J532.25 Adle</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Bill Nye the Science Guy Home Demos: https://www.billnye.com/home-demos</p> <p>Exploratorium: https://www.exploratorium.edu/</p> <p>Kids Infobits Science Section</p> <p>National Geographic Kids Science: www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/science/</p>
Activities	<p>Conduct science experiments</p> <p>Nature walks</p> <p>Visit the Science Museum</p> <p>Keep a science question journal and then try to find out the answers together</p>
Music	
Library Area	Non-fiction J780-788, don't forget to look in biographies, too and take out cds to listen to!; most sheet music is in the adult collection, 780-788
Books	<p><i>Ah, Music</i> by Alik –J780 Alik</p> <p><i>Frog Trouble and Eleven Other Pretty Serious Songs</i> by Sandra Boynton—J782-42 Boyn</p> <p><i>Monster Boogie</i> by Laurie Berkner – J Pic Berk</p> <p><i>Music</i> by DK—J784.19 Arle</p> <p><i>Play, Louie, Play!: The True Story of a Boy and His Horn</i> by Muriel Weinstein—J Bio. Armstrong</p> <p><i>Play This Book</i> by Jessica Young – J Pic Young</p> <p><i>The Ultimate Guide to Music</i> by Joe Fullman—J780.9 Full</p>
Databases & Websites	<p>Buffalo Philharmonic Kids page: https://bpo.org/for-kids/</p> <p>Classics for Kids- www.classicsforkids.com/music/musical_period.php?id=Classical</p> <p>The Yo-Yo Mo Show: An Evening of Musical Doodling (a video of Mo Willems and Yo-Yo Ma making art and music together): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEh9vsB9OfE</p>
Activities	<p>Attend Buffalo Philharmonic events (recordings are available on the website above and, for 2021, all concerts will be streamed)</p> <p>Learn to play an instrument-we have books to help you with this, too!</p>

	<p>Make your own instruments with recycled materials from around the house</p> <p>Listen to songs and talk about how they make you feel, or draw as you listen (see an example of this in Mo Willems' video above)</p>
Visual Arts	
Library Area	Non-fiction –J700-709, J741-778, Don't forget to check the biography section, too!
Books	<p><i>Art in Different Places</i> by Robin Johnson—J701.03</p> <p><i>Cave Paintings To Picasso</i> by Henry M. Sayre –J709 Sayr</p> <p><i>Children's Book of Art</i> by DK—J700 Chil</p> <p><i>Dr. Seuss's Horse Museum</i> by Dr. Seuss—J700.462 Seus</p> <p><i>Ed Emberley's Drawing Book of Animals</i> by Ed Emberley—J743.6 Embe</p> <p><i>Why is Art Full of Naked People? & Other Vital Questions About Art</i> by Susie Hodge—J701.1 Hodg</p>
Databases & Websites	National Gallery of Art - http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/kids.html
Activities	<p>Visit local art museums – most have children's activities</p> <p>Create artwork</p> <p>Make a great artworks memory tile game</p>
Physical Education	
Library Area	Non-fiction J613.7, J796-798
Books	<p><i>Cool Outdoor Activities: Great Things to do in the Great Outdoors</i> by Alex Kuskowski —J796 Kusk</p> <p><i>Get Some Exercise!</i> by Angela Royston –J613.71</p> <p><i>Sport & Fitness: How to Use Your Body and Mind to Play and Feel Your Best</i> by Therese Kauchak Maring –J796 Mari</p> <p><i>The Yoga Zoo Adventure: Animal Poses and Games for Little Kids</i> by Helen Purperhart —J613.7046 Purp</p>
Databases & Websites	Stanford Health PE help- https://fit.stanfordhealth.org/?utm_source=WeAreTeachers&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=Sanford_1906_ARTICLE
Activities	<p>Join a team</p> <p>Visit park playgrounds</p> <p>Make active games to play inside during the winter</p>

Created by Chelsey Lonberger for BECPL; adapted for the North Tonawanda Public Library by Kelly Menzel