

# SCHOOL CLOSURES, VIRTUAL LEARNING, AND PARENTING CHALLENGES

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In recent years, the frequency and intensity of natural disasters or disease like COVID-19 have increased, leading to more school closures.

This has become a concern to parents with regards to managing their children's education and well-being during emergencies .

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Parenting during school closures due to bad events can be a daunting task, as parents are often faced with the challenge of balancing work responsibilities while ensuring the safety and well-being of their children.

In such situations, parents may experience increased stress and anxiety, as they navigate the uncertainty of when schools will reopen and how to manage their children's education in the meantime .

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The closure of schools can disrupt the learning process for students and pose challenges for parents who may not have the resources or knowledge to provide effective educational support at home.

**Parental involvement in their children's education** is crucial for academic success. However, many parents may struggle to navigate the complexities of teaching unfamiliar subjects or concepts to their children, especially during unforeseen disruptions to the school calendar.

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Parent involvement in education has long been a determinant of school performance among children.

There is little research, however, regarding the specific parenting difficulties that arise during periods of school closure due to unfavorable weather or other causes.

It is important to identify these difficulties in order to develop effective channels of support to help parents overcome these situations and sustain the learning path of their children.



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It is thus necessary to prepare parents with information and assistance necessary to allow them to cope with school closures because of events.

By providing parents with information about **alternative learning options** such as educational materials, learning skills, and alternative education methods to conduct the education of their children at home, we can make sure some of the distress and anxiety of such challenging moments is reduced

# Strategies for Coping with School Closures

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strategies	description
Establish a support network	Reach out to family, friends, and neighbors for assistance.
Create a schedule for children's activities	Plan out daily activities to keep children engaged and productive.
Communicate with school and teachers	Stay informed about school closures and educational resources.
Practice self-care	Take time for self-care to reduce stress and maintain well-being.

# Technologies

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The incorporation of information and communication technologies (ICT), educational technology (ET) design, and software development in the educational field contributes to school intervention, offering playful and effective environments for the treatment of different disorders in children and adolescents

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In recent years, different emerging technologies are emerging in the educational field.

Within the technological field, **virtual reality** and **augmented reality** can make important contributions to the education, since they offer more playful environments that can improve adherence to learning as well as safe and controlled environments in which failure does not have negative consequences for the student.

# Augmented reality (AR)



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Augmented reality (AR) is the technology that allows combining real and virtual objects in the same environment and executing them interactively in real-time.

It allows students to touch and manipulate objects that would normally be impossible for a school to access – such as the solar system or an atom.

AR provides an interactive form of learning, making it far more engaging. This promotes a more active, experiential type of learning experience.

This technology allows the visualization of the real environment that is augmented by elements or objects generated by a computer or mobile device .

# virtual reality (VR)



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On the other hand, virtual reality (VR) is an emerging technology in recent decades, becoming in the last fifteen years a powerful educational element and a tool for evaluation and intervention in the school environment.

Virtual reality (VR) can be defined as the technology that allows users to immerse themselves in three-dimensional scenarios in first person and 360 degrees, favoring their immersion in interaction with a different reality and the elements that compose it

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Of course, both AR and VR have the ability to transform learning experiences in education, but they differ in two key ways: immersion and versatility.

### **Immersion**

Because AR overlays digital information in the real world, students can interact with virtual elements while staying connected to their physical environment. VR, on the other hand, fully immerses students in a virtual world, which disconnects them from their real surroundings.

### **Versatility**

AR is decidedly more accessible and versatile since it can be used with smartphones or tablets, whereas VR requires dedicated headsets.

Ultimately, the differentiator is that AR enhances existing educational experiences, while VR creates entirely new ones. Either way, they both offer unique, effective learning experiences in education.

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In addition, these emerging technologies are a resource that improves training processes, given that the sensory inclusion developed by the subject at the time of its use involves it mentally and intellectually in the content to be learned in a positive way ,causing more concentration on the task and greater performance and creativity.

Virtual and augmented reality research in education is still in its early stages. The majority of research is focused on health, where significant results have already been obtained. However, these emerging technologies are also being implemented in the educational field, obtaining preliminary results

# AI

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The integration of artificial intelligence into educational support systems for parents can play a significant role in empowering them to provide effective assistance to their children during school closures caused by inclement weather.

By leveraging AI technologies, parents can access personalized learning resources, tutorials, and support systems that can enhance their ability to support their child's education effectively.

It is imperative for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders to recognize the potential of AI in transforming parental involvement in education and work towards implementing innovative solutions to address the challenges posed by school closures.

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