

I have a unique perspective on working, teaching and learning from home. While working from home I often hear my wife as she assists teaching class through videoconferencing to a small group of 3rd – 5th grade students. During other parts of the day I see my 3rd grade daughter engaged and focused as she participates in her classes. That is how it looks now but it wasn't always this smooth and organized....

Week One:

I have to admit that the first few weeks of working/teaching/learning was difficult. Everything was suddenly and unexpectedly very different than the routine and schedules we typically keep. For me it was a busy period. I spent much of my days assisting teachers figure out how to communicate with their students and how to access resources using the technology they have at home. For my wife and my daughter, it followed Spring Break so it just felt like an extension of their break for them.

Week two:

By the second week, things weren't going very well for me. I wasn't keeping up on emails and other regular tasks. I spent much of my time trying to figure out what to do next. I would often lose track of which day of the week it was, and sometimes I even had to stop to think what time of the year it was! During this second week, my wife and daughter were in communication with their classes through email and other messaging apps.

Week Three:

For me week three was a little better. I started to get into a routine and was able to catch up on some of the tasks that had fallen through the cracks. I have to admit that it was/is still hard to stay focused at home sometimes but keeping to a schedule helped a lot. It was neat to see my wife and daughter start to have regular "class" online. I was interesting to see how things were going for my wife as a teacher's assistant and for my daughter as a student. I listened to their first few sessions to see how things would go. During those first few videoconferencing sessions, most of the time was spent catching up on what everybody had been doing and being able to see and talk with friends again.

This week (Week ?):

It seems like we have all adjusted pretty well and have developed new routines. They are very different from our normal schedules but at least we know what to expect. Each day I know what I need to get done. (Yes, I now *usually* remember which day of the week it is.) It's awesome to see real instruction and learning going on in the class my wife assists with. It's been fun to see her teach and interact with her students. I'm impressed and amazed to see firsthand the teaching and learning that is going on in my daughter's class. It is very different but these kids have adapted and are continuing to learn.

All three of us can't wait to get back to our normal lives where we can interact with our friends and co-workers in person. During all of this craziness I appreciate what I have seen and learned. I already knew how amazing, caring and dedicated teachers are, but this experience has also shown me how resilient, flexible and creative they can be as well!

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