Physical Activity at a Distance

4

Healthy active kids in the era of physical distancing

PHE CANADA SPOTLIGHT SERIES JUNE 17TH, 2020

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The Quebec Context

Pre-COVID-19

- 2 hours/week minimum PHE elementary and secondary
- Most schools (including elementary) have PHE specialists
- Government recommends 60 minutes of DPA, but it's not provincially mandated
- Generally strong recognition of the need for students to move regularly throughout the day – UDL, flexible seating, movement in the classroom, extended recess

Then this guy came along...



COVID Shutdown and Moving Online

- March 13th schools closed; 2-week "holiday"
- March 30th online learning begins (optional for students, no evaluations)





Provide a structure and focus to avoid overwhelming resources (calendar)

May 11th – Schools re-open to students outside of Montreal, but...





Restructuring PHE

- Back to school with physical distancing measures in place: Lord Aylmer School
 - Outdoors; teachers bring students to me
 - PHE teachers are spatial awareness specialists!
 - Each student given a skipping rope and tennis ball
 - Zoom activity session from empty classroom in case of inclement weather
 - Encourage and support movement in the classroom and use of outdoor spaces by classroom teachers as much as possible



Teachable Moments

Being bored can be a good thing!

- ▶ What CAN I do?
- Students can have meaningful interaction from 2m apart
- There are so many ways to make things work!
 - PHE community support
- Physical Literacy is about developing competence and confidence in a variety of environments – so let's use them!



So many things to do!

- Track & Field
- Skipping
- Ball manipulation skills & challenges
- Golf Variations
- ► Gymnastics
- Hopscotch
- Dance
- Neighbourhood nature walks















Sticks and Stones

















Trees – the original play structure!

Natural Fitness Circuits







So where do we go from here?

- We need to be flexible and creative to jump into whatever situation we find ourselves in for Fall 2020.
- What doesn't change is that kids need to move!
- Ongoing communication in the PHE community will be important.
- Whatever the scenario is, we CAN and we must continue to promote healthy habits for life.





