



### **Social Distancing in Schools**

By Beula Postlewait, Communications Representative

You may have read the article in this issue by Mark Taylor, “Have You Tried Assistive Technology?” While checking out the [understood.org](http://understood.org) website, I found some interesting information about social distancing in schools.

Everyone knows “six feet apart” is the standard rule for distance. However, when someone asks me to tell them the size of my guest bedroom, I may have a blank look on my face. “Well, maybe 10 feet by 15 feet?” I would need to find the measuring tape to give you an accurate answer to the question. I envy people like my husband who can look at a board and tell you exactly how long it is—without that measuring tape.

Children often are more like me. How far is six feet? What are some ways we can teach kids to judge safe distances in the classroom and the halls and at home? Go to this [website](#).

There you will find some of these ideas:

1. Make a game of learning distance. Play the game, “Red Light, Green Light.” Place objects around the room (or this could be done outside) and direct the child to move toward the object. When the child gets close to six feet, say “Yellow Light.” If the child moves closer than six feet, say “Red Light.”
2. You can also teach the children who see a child getting too close to them to say, “Halt” and put up the palm of their hands.

3. Use a locking measuring tape and lock it at six feet. Or use sidewalk chalk on a sidewalk or concrete surface to measure six feet. Let the students practice how many footsteps it takes to make six feet.
4. Designate a starting line with a piece of tape. Give each student a piece of tape (with their initials on it) and let them place the tape where they think six feet will be. Let the students see how close they come to the correct distance. Make this a fun event, and do not embarrass any child who is distance-challenged.

Perhaps you have some methods you have used in your school to encourage social distancing that are different from these ideas. Our readers would be glad to hear about them. Please contact me, and we can send those ideas to other educators through this newsletter.

Dear God, please be with our educators and all our students during these difficult times. Be with those who have lost family members and friends during this school year. Comfort them and remind that You love them and will help them each day. Amen.

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