



ONLINE LEARNING - HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

Welcome! You have made the big step to set up support for your child. Just a short time ago, it was thought that providing multisensory literacy instruction online was almost impossible. In the last year, I have successfully moved my practice online and have seen wonderful results.

In my experience, I have learned a few things about supporting students online so this is my chance to give you some tips and tricks to help make online learning engaging, fun and successful and to help all of the people on your child's learning team collaborate together to provide the best support that we can.

Help to set a positive attitude about learning

Your perspective and attitude towards extra learning support makes a huge difference and has an impact on how your child sees this new and important part of their lives.

Learning support isn't a chore nor is it a form of punishment that takes away time from other activities - it is dedicated opportunity for your child to receive personalized one-on-one time to help them learn and grow! And, dare I say, it can be a lot of fun too!

If you are excited about this, then your child will be too! Try to create a positive atmosphere surrounding their sessions. Prioritize them as you would any other extracurricular activities. Treat these sessions as something positive and your child will too!

Create Routines

To make work time more appealing for your child, a simple routine can help set the stage. Create simple routines for before, during, and after learning time. Routines such as gathering your materials, getting your space organized, having a snack, taking a drink of water, moving around, stating a gratitude, or telling a joke will help your child feel secure and ready for learning.

Routines can be supported by picture charts that help keep track of what happens next. or with a whiteboard in a common area of the home detailing your child's daily routine.

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Create a dedicated space that is distraction-free

Just like when you work from home, your child needs a dedicated learning space that is distraction-free. What this looks like and where it is in the home is different for every family but there are a few guidelines that you can follow.

- Start by creating an area dedicated to learning time. That may mean a specific space at the kitchen counter or a corner of the living room, where you can monitor your child's engagement and learning, but it needs to be free of clutter and other distracting items. Learning spaces should be in a **common area** of the home where parents or guardians can monitor their child's learning.
- Make sure your child has their learning kit and all learning materials with them and ready for use during sessions. Your child will be provided with their own learning kit with all of the necessary materials. This kit should only be used for learning support sessions and should be with your child ready to use at each session.
- Finally, make sure you avoid unnecessary interruptions and distractions. Guide other children out of the room while your child is in a tutoring session. Don't interrupt to ask your child a question or drag them away to another task unless it absolutely can't wait. Distractions interfere with the learning process and may prevent your child from grasping that vital concept they were just inches away from learning or mastering.

Provide time to process and review information

We all have busy schedules and are often running from one thing to another. Provide some time after each session for your child to process what they have just learned.

Build a short 5-10 minute span of time after their lesson to take some time to breathe and reflect on their lesson and what they have just learned. Allowing the information to settle into the brain helps many Executive Functions and allows your child to absorb what they have just learned. You can learn more about Executive Functions and how these mental skills affect learning and how they can be practiced and built [HERE](#).



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Make sure you have the right technology

Make sure your child has the right technology. For example, if you often have a noisy household, you may want to invest in a pair of noise-canceling headphones with a good microphone your child can use to engage in learning sessions.

Using the learning platform, Koala Go, access to engaging and interactive online tutoring has never been better. You will be sent one link that remains the same and you simply need to click on that link and your child will be taken to the classroom lobby. No more zoom links, Jamboard links or any other complicated processes to access your lessons.

Firstly and of utmost importance, you will need a reliable internet connection. Secondly, your child can now easily access this amazing platform with the following devices:

- desktop computer (with webcam)
- laptop computer (with webcam)
- iPad or tablet

Have fun!

Remember that learning can be fun! I always aim to provide quality instruction mixed in with fun learning games and activities. The Koala Go platform is continually improving and provides a built-in rewards system as well as an interactive playground that allows for regular brain breaks.

It is my experience that most students actually enjoy and look forward to tutoring sessions once they become comfortable with the practitioner and the lesson routines. It becomes a time for them to receive individual attention and instruction and allows for them to learn in a safe and supportive learning environment. It has not been uncommon for my students to complain when the session has to end or say that they will miss our sessions when we have some time off.