

- **Tips for helping parents of children with disabilities - Supporting learning at home.**

Learning is not just what you do at school. Learning opportunities are everywhere! Your children learn from everything you do, and every conversation you have. At the market, the store, in the home, the kitchen, the garden. Include your children in everything you do. In your conversations, in your cooking, your gardening, your shopping, the daily decisions you make. Encourage your children to take their responsibility and role in the family and wider community.

Many school learning activities are also related to children's lives at home, and in the community, or outdoors. Work on developing the things they already know – this will help with many school learning activities.

For All Children

- Always communicate in the language these children understand well
- Do not rush the child on any task – give time to practice and be patient
- Give positive feedback (“good job!” and “nice work!”) often
- Separate activities into smaller steps
- Encourage children to ask questions (if you don't know the answer, don't make one up; tell them it is a good question and make a note to check with the teacher later)

Children with Learning (Intellectual Disability)

- Present information visually and verbally
- Focus on the life skills the child needs to function independently, and check with the child to repeat back the instructions.
- Make learning real using the child's experience of everyday life at home.
- Work with the child, if they find it difficult and frustrated learning to write their name, you could let them trace it in sand, use a different coloured marker, make the shapes of letters in their name with their body, or sing the letters of their name so they can remember the order.

Children with Focus Challenges

- Seat the child in a quiet area, away from distractions
- Allow the child to take breaks
- Always say the child's name when speaking to the child
- Learning can still happen while they are active. Ask them how many steps they took on their break, how much a packet of noodle is at the store, to describe their favourite place.

Children with Specific Learning Difficulties

Behaviour challenges

Attention challenges

- Provide regular positive feedback and encouragement - focus on the child's strengths and recognise achievements
- Be patient, give instructions in simple steps and repeat when necessary
- Reinforce and reward positive behaviour
- Identify triggers of bad behaviour and try to avoid them
- Establish clear rules for behaviour. Ask the child to help you to make the rules.

Children with Physical Challenges

- Ensure that the child is able to sit comfortably while studying
- Allow them to have a break and move around as needed

Children with Hearing Challenges

- Use the child's preferred method of communication
- Make sure the child understood the instructions
- Make sure they learn their alphabet for reading and writing, and the difference between spoken and written language.

Children with Vision Challenges

- Focus on activities that use touch or sound
- Allow children to touch and feel learning materials as much as possible, for example an abacus or counters (small stones, sticks, matches) when counting in maths.
- Teach them about money. Let them touch it, feel it, know the difference between twenty cents, fifty cents, five dollars, ten dollars.