

Parents and Distance Learning: Ways to Make It Work

Adapted from Connections Academy <https://blog.connectionsacademy.com/>

To support children in distance learning understand the habits of successful distance learning students in the previous section. Based on the age, learning behaviors, and supervision needs of your child, as well as your availability, consider these suggestions for how you can support your child's learning.

Plan your child's learning schedule – Make sure the activities that require the most support and input from you are done during the times you are available and rested. Designate your busy or working hours for independent reading and subjects your child has an easier time processing and understanding. Always plan to work with the teacher during their office hours.

Utilize to-do lists – Create clearly defined to-do lists for your child. For parents who are working or have commitments, leave clear instructions for the times you are not available, and make sure assignments are completed as required.

Make use of planning tools – Use a planning tool, print or digital, to coordinate your family calendar with your child's lesson schedule. When the child is old enough, get your child used to managing the planner.

Be flexible – When your child is not able to complete something without your support, set aside another time to work on that assignment. Encourage your child to continue working on the things that come more easily to him or her when you are not readily available. For full- or part-time working parents, identify times when you are rested for supporting your child.

Work with your child's teacher – Know your child's assignments, assessments, and scheduled time to interact with the teacher. Do not help children when they are taking an assessment. The results of the assessments inform the teacher of your child's learning. Encourage your child to participate with the teacher during the teacher's office hours. Provide the teacher your work schedule and/or regular commitments. Knowing this the teacher will be better able to support your child's learning. If the child is old enough, encourage your child to email their questions to the teacher.