

Home Learning Support



Many parents will have concerns about helping their child learn in the home environment during this period of home schooling. It is difficult for any child to adapt to this new expectation, but for our little ones it becomes a bit more complicated by the fact that children with an ASD find change difficult. Here are a few thoughts and ideas that might help as you take on this challenge.

Students with an ASD can tend to see school as the place to work, and home as their “down time” so it will take time for some children to adjust to this new setting for learning so allow your child time to adjust. Here are a few ideas that might help.

Establishing good routines should help. Show your child the structure of the day by using a schedule. This can be made age appropriate for your child’s age and independent reading ability etc (generally a written schedule is fine for older children who read independently but include pictures with words for younger children).

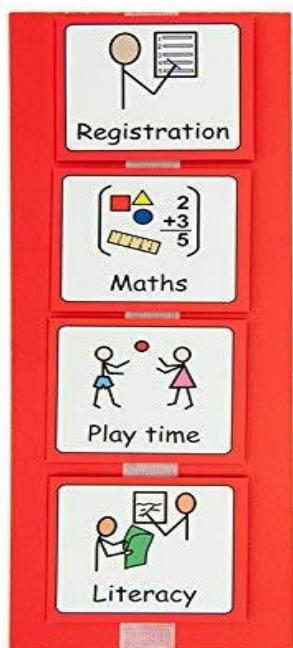


Write one activity on each post it

Reading

Break

Numberwork

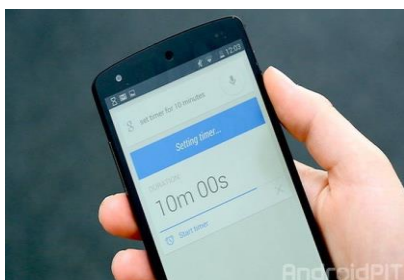


This is an example of a school's picture and word visual schedule. You can get simple pictures to help you create one of your own on www.twinkl.co.uk



Try to establish a **home learning space**. This will help your child to identify when it is work time and when it is not. This might simply be the kitchen table or child's own desk. Consider how to reduce distractions when this is being used for home learning. Obviously, this space can be set up daily, if necessary, and does not need to be permanently available. Keep most things that you need in a box/container to be readily accessible.

Set regular **start** and **end times**. Remember if the activity for a young child will take 15 minutes you can schedule in a 5 -minute movement break afterwards. Reward systems can be supportive. A timer can be a useful way of showing a child how long an activity will last (this can often be found as a smart phone feature) or you might have another type of timer in your house.



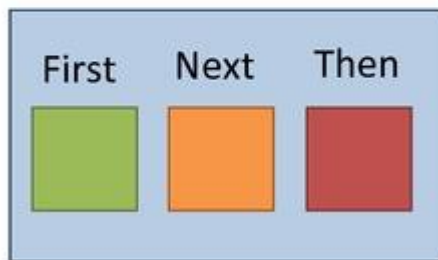
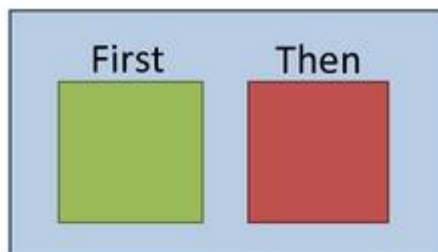
Your school/teacher will be available to support using the **teaching resources** sent by the school. The following are just a list of ideas that teachers use in schools to support children in school whose teaching and learning needs must be considered in relation to their ASD support needs.

Supporting Instructions

1. Try to show your child what to do as well as tell.
2. Keep your language simple and use visual support when possible eg written instructions.
3. Initially, use your child's name to gain their focus rather than the instruction.
4. Be aware that switching attention is particularly difficult for your child so allow time to process language.
5. Avoid distractions eg screens that are not being used in the lesson.
6. Check the child's understanding by getting them to explain the instructions back to you to show understanding.

Organization

Your teacher will have gone to great lengths to organise your child’s work and you will have their regular support. Here are a few extra ideas to support your child’s organisational needs.



A **FIRST/THEN** or a **FIRST/NEXT/THEN** are both ways of showing your young child the order of what must be completed.

First – find the words beginning with **h** on your worksheet

Next- look and find more words beginning with **h** in your reading book and write them on your worksheet

Then- This is Harry the Hedgehog. Think of names for the 2 other hedgehogs beginning with **h** and colour your hedgehogs brown.

To show an older child a simple written list will show the order of activities.



Marking off completed tasks can be useful.

Motivation

It might take a little time for your child to adjust to a new way of learning, but routines will soon be established. They might have interests of their own that they want to spend time with and that will be fine too as they need a good balance of work and play. Your teacher will have guided you as to the length of time to try and engage your child in the activities that have been sent home.

Little star charts and other reward systems can be a useful way of motivating a child as they can see a reward for their hard work! You might already have a reward system at home, but if not there are ideas available on www.twinkl.co.uk

Toby Tower My Weekly Reward Chart

inspiration grows brains

	This week I will...	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

My goal for the week is _____ 's

My reward for the week is _____