

How to adapt special education to remote learning

Featured alt: A child writing something in a book.

Handling the coronavirus pandemic hasn't been easy on anyone. People had to learn how to work from home and get accustomed to spending more time in the house. For some, this was a much-welcome change, but there were certain [aspects of COVID-19 that were quite stressful](#). One of those aspects is remote learning, as most kids had to stay at home. And seeing as this pandemic is far from over, we need to consider some ways to adapt special education to remote learning. So, to help you out, we will cover the significant issues you'll have to face to provide your child with the at-home special education they need.

How to prepare for remote learning

Depending on where you live and how old your child is, you might already be ready for remote learning. But, if this is something that you need to start tackling in the upcoming months, you will need to prepare properly. Let us first go over the necessary preparations to adapt special education to remote learning.

Know your rights

It should be reasonably obvious, but we still feel it necessary to mention that schools need to provide their students with special education, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, every child is entitled to free public education. So, if your school seems unwilling to provide the necessary accommodation for learning, stand your ground.



It is every parent's duty to provide their child with the best possible education.

Alt: Two boys sitting at a desk and smiling.

Unfortunately, not all schools are capable and/or willing to help every child out. Schools with inadequate funding usually don't have the necessary tools to provide a decent education for kids with disabilities. So, if you are [planning to settle down in a new area](#), make sure to study

local schools before you move. See how they handled the COVID-19 crisis, and try to contact one of the parents for first-hand information.

Adjust learning goals

As any experienced teacher can tell you, every child learns at their own pace. This is especially important to remember for kids with disabilities, as they can have quite a hard time adjusting to new circumstances. Keep in mind that teachers are still not entirely sure how to approach this unique situation.

Even though you want to see your child succeed and grow, try to adjust your goals for this year. It will be a while before both the teachers and the students are comfortable with online learning. And even then, it is still not clear whether they will be able to perform the same as they would in ordinary circumstances. So, make sure to give your child enough positive reinforcement to help them adapt to remote learning.

Prepare your home

A great way to help adapt special education to remote learning is to design a home classroom for your child. Know that kids have trouble concentrating, even when they are at school. Therefore, you can expect them to have an even harder time while learning remotely. If you want to help your child concentrate, [try to modify your home](#) so that they can have a proper learning space. To help them avoid distractions, make sure that the room is clear, apart from the necessary school material, and that your child can spend a few hours in relative peace.



The best way to adapt special education to remote learning is to provide your child with space where they can concentrate.

Alt: A child writing on a piece of paper.

Adapt special education to remote learning

With preparations squared away, it should be much easier to adapt special education to remote learning. But, there are still certain things you will need to tackle along the way. So, here is what the future has in store for you.

Helping your kids find friends

One thing that parents often forget is that school is not just about learning. Kids form lasting friendships in school and learn important social skills that they will further develop in life. If you want to help your child through this difficult time, make sure that they socialize. Ideally, you should set up play dates with other parents so that their children can benefit as well. You can even look into virtual playgrounds, as modern technology allows for a much greater degree of immersion. Overall, don't neglect the social development of your child.

Parental involvement

Learning in school can be an excellent experience for every child. However, if you want to make the most out of this period, you'd best try to get involved with your child's learning. They might struggle at times, and they have no place to turn to since they cannot talk to their teacher. Try to go over the material with them and find fun ways to apply their new knowledge. Even a simple trip to the store can become a learning experience if you are creative and patient enough. [There are tons of different games you can play](#) to help your children go over what they learned in school, so do your best to help them.



The more creative you are, the more you can help your child learn.
Alt: A father teaching his child about nature.

Keeping a schedule

Another important aspect that educators mention is the importance of keeping a schedule. In order for children to learn proper work habits and develop the right mindset for future studies, they need to have a schedule. While it may be difficult at times, you need to help them stay organized. An important aspect of this is to lead with example. Even if you have a job with flexible hours, try to show your kids that having a schedule and sticking to it is a must.

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