

How to support Specific Learning Difficulties children during home learning in lockdown.

Home learning can be a stressful time for all pupils and parents alike. Add to this, a specific learning difficulty such as Decoding of information, ADHD, Dyspraxia etc., there will be additional barriers to overcome.

Your child may need additional time to complete tasks, help with the reading and recording of information, and they may find live lessons difficult to follow.

Ways to help

Getting prepared to learn:

- Find a quiet place with minimal distractions
- Make sure they are sat correctly and have their equipment to hand.

Assistive Technology:

- If your child struggles with reading of information, most computers now have 'immersive reading' technology. This means they can read aloud words, PDF and website documents. (see Assistive technology handout for more information).
- Audio books are fantastic! Lancashire libraries have a loan scheme, where you can access these books for free - <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/digital-library/>
OR you can also access sites such as 'Listening Books', and 'Borrow Box'.
- If your child is struggling to type for an extended amount of time, ask their teacher if they can record themselves, create a PowerPoint, or use their text to speech software built into their compute, tablet, or mobile phone. (see assistive technology handout).
- If your child struggles from Irlen's Syndrome OR has been screened for visual stress, then adjusting the colour settings on their device. (see assistive technology handout).

Organisation:

- Stick to their lesson times, and try not to work beyond their allotted lesson time.
- Ensure your child has all of their equipment ready before the start of the lesson.

Understanding tasks:

- Teachers should be differentiating and using simple, short instructions.
- Encourage them to ask their teacher to repeat or clarify instructions. They do not need to speak out loud, but can simply type into the chat box in Teams.

Difficulties with Mathematics:

- Photomath aims to maximize comprehension of core math concepts learned in the classroom. The app is free to download and free throughout lockdown.
<https://photomath.app/en/>

Wellbeing Links:

- Breathing exercises, activities, games and videos to help let go of stress
<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Struggling with Typing and word processing?

- Improve their typing accuracy and speed - <https://www.typingclub.com/>

Other Free Resources:

- Education Otherwise offers free resources for all GCSE subjects.
<https://www.educationotherwise.org/resources/by-category/>
- Distance education resources had a huge library of resources to help all families with SEND children. <https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/distance-education-resources-for-children-and-young-people-with-send/>
- Oak Academy has free resources on all Secondary subjects, differentiated for pupils with SEND - <https://www.thenational.academy/>