

Learner Support Team: Supporting Your Child's Learning From Home

During the current school closure we are aware that all families are under greater strain, but families whose children have Special Educational Needs may be feeling this more than others.

With this in mind, here are some additional resources which we hope may be of support.

Simple Strategies to Support with Lessons

- Where possible break down the information given into chunks.
- Change/amend any language they may not understand (or ask them to use the online dictionary).
- Allow your child time to think to process the information given. They may not be able to answer questions straight away.
- Enable your child to talk through their thinking before answering any questions, it may help your child to say aloud their response before putting it in writing.
- Give a time limit to complete the lesson if the activities are taking longer than expected. Lessons are an hour at school, so if the work is taking well over the hour, then stop, hand in the completed work and let the teacher know.

Tips to Support your Child with Reading

- If reading with your child, wait until the end of the page to correct mistakes
- Encourage your child to sound out words if they are struggling to read them
- If your child is not sure of what a word means, ask them to “read around” and see if they can work it out.
- Get them to familiarize themselves with dictionaries, on-line or hard copy
- Ask your child to summarize what has recently happened
- Ask them to make a prediction - what happens next
- Keep encouraging your child

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_schools/7_Top_Tips_to_Support_Reading_at_Home.pdf

Additional Resources to Support your Child

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> - Online dictionary to support your child in understanding specific words

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/> Online activities to support your child in English and maths working at the developing pathway

Fun ways to help your child **practice their skills through activities and board games.**

<https://matr.org/blog/fun-maths-games-activities-for-kids/> - 25 Fun Maths Activities And Games For Children To Do At Home For Free

<https://www.happypuzzle.co.uk/> - Sells over 300 educational games & puzzles including those to help children with maths, literacy and thinking skills

Books are not downloadable via the school website but here are a range of options:

- Kindle – many publishers are offering books at 99p during school closure
- Apple Books – lots of free books too, some discounted
- Overdrive – If you have a library card from Ealing Libraries, you can login and access ebooks for free.

https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201219/libraries/2413/library_service/1

Not all books are available all the time but you can add to a wish list and effectively reserve a book as you would in a normal library.

There is also the BBC book club <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/cbbc-book-club>

For some **Science learning**, the Science Museum is offering:

<https://learning-resources.sciencemuseum.org.uk/resources/?type=at-home>
(activities)

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/games-and-apps> (games)

To support your child's **Speech, Language and Communication development** there are a range of websites that offer a range of support:

<https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/category/games/>

<https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/calming-children-self-calming-strategies/>

https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/specialeducationalneeds-sen/specialeducationalneeds-s_en-communication-and-interaction/specialeducationalneeds-sen-speech-language-therapy

<https://www.parenttoolkit.com/academics/advice/english-language-arts/helping-your-child-build-a-strong-vocabulary>

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/>

Ealing Local Offer has also created a [resource pack](#) on Ealing Families Directory with details of Services offering support during COVID-19 for parents/carers, children and young people.

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Schools have been asked to remain open where possible for children with ERSAs in progress, EHCPs, vulnerable students and children of keyworkers. The government is aiming to maintain essential services and offer a safe space to more vulnerable children whilst balancing risk to the wider community.

If your child has an EHCP a member of school staff will be in regular contact with you to discuss how your child is at home and how the school can support. Young people with EHCP are able to access childcare at school, but should only be doing so if:

- a) risk assessment suggests they would be safer in school, or
- b) they are the children of key workers, and it is not possible for them to be kept at home.

A risk assessment for a child or young person will need to balance a number of different risks, including:

- the potential health risks to the individual from coronavirus (COVID-19), bearing in mind any underlying health conditions eg if your child had asthma
- the risk to the individual if some or all the elements of their EHC plan cannot be delivered for the time being. If the risk of failing to deliver this in the normal and usual setting is not met through taking opportunities to meet needs temporarily in a different way e.g. in the home or online.
- the ability of the individual's parents/carers or home to ensure their health and care needs can be met safely week-round or for multiple weeks, bearing in mind the family's access to respite
- the potential impact to the individual's wellbeing of changes to routine or the way in which provision is delivered
- any out-of-school or college risk or vulnerability. For example, a child or young person becoming involved in dangerous behaviour, situations or requiring support from a social worker. This applies to those whose needs are best met in educational settings, particularly in order to stop a care placement breakdown

Risk assessments should consider which children and young people with EHC plans may benefit more from remaining at school or college than at home.

Many young people with EHC plans can safely be supported at home. This could be for various reasons, including because:

- they do not need irreplaceable care or health provision
- the services they most need can be moved from their educational setting into their home
- their parents can meet their needs full-time
- they are able to follow hygiene and social distancing practices at home
- due to their health vulnerabilities, they are safer in the more stringent social distancing environment of their home

The DFE continues to publish guidance to support schools and parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>