

Strategies to Develop Independence in Remote Home Learning

Task	*Strategy*
Getting ready on time	• Draw pictures/write a list of 'jobs' to do each morning to get ready (e.g. get washed, get dressed, eat breakfast, clean teeth). If possible, laminate the list so that it can be re-used each day. Encourage the pupil to tick off the jobs as each is completed.
Knowing when online lessons are taking place	• Ask pupil to check emails/online information about lesson times. • If schools are emailing timetable for whole week in advance and the pupil has printing facilities at home they could print out the timetable. They could colour code this with highlighters or felt tips (perhaps using a different colour for each subject to make it clearer). • Help the pupil to learn how to refer to the timetable, so that eventually they can do this independently and be ready on time for the online sessions. • If pupils have access to Alexa or Google Hub at home it may be possible for them to use this to set up reminders about lesson times.
Setting up the phone/ tablet/computer/ for online learning and closing down the device afterwards	• Parents to model how to set up the phone/ tablet/computer/-and log onto the relevant learning platform. • Parents to also model how to log off and close down the device at the end of the day. • Draw/write list of key words/pictures as a reminder of the order in which to do this task if the pupil has difficulty remembering. • Encourage the pupil to log in early to avoid any panic if there are logging in difficulties.
Organise other equipment for home learning	• Parents to ask/help pupil to make a checklist of equipment they may need for home learning e.g. books, paper, pencils, rulers etc. The pupil can then be responsible for ensuring s/he has all this equipment ready at the start of the day before home learning begins. • Encourage the pupil to have something they can do/use independently during live lessons (e.g. fiddle toys, looking through a book) to pass the time if other pupils have technical issues that take time to resolve and they find it hard to wait.
Understanding the learning task and working independently	• Parents to check the pupil fully understands the task before starting by asking them to explain what they have to do. • Break the task into small steps if the pupil has difficulty remembering and write/draw these steps on a piece of paper next to them – this will be their task plan. • Model one or two questions/first steps of the task if necessary. • Encourage the pupil to refer to the task plan throughout the task. • Encourage the pupil to work independently for a specific amount of time (try using a kitchen timer to help them to be aware of the time if this is appropriate or write the digital time down on a piece of



Strategies to Develop Independence in Remote Home Learning

Task	*Strategy*
	paper for the child to refer to and check on a phone/ laptop/tablet). Alternatively ask them to write a certain number of lines or complete a certain number of questions. Gradually increase the amount the child does independently as they become more confident.
Asking for help	• During online live lessons, ensure the pupil has a piece of paper or mini whiteboard to communicate to their adult if they are stuck and do not feel able to express this in front of the class. The parent can then try to help or can support them to write a comment directly to their teacher or support staff. • If the pupil struggles with their work, encourage them to ask for help and specify exactly what they need help with. Raise their awareness of what strategies help them e.g. list of key words and pictures, having someone to read the text to them, planning key paragraphs of a story on post-it notes before they start writing etc.