

HOW TO CREATE AN AT-HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Where students learn can affect how they think, feel, and act.^{1,2} Parents and guardians often wonder how to set their child up for success with the best place to learn at home. This guide suggests how families can create spaces at home that are safe and comfortable for student learning.



Start Creating Your At-Home Learning Environment.



CHOOSE THE SPACE. Identify an area of your home where your child can be comfortable and is able to focus. This space will look differently for everyone and doesn't have to mean creating a new space. It might mean designating an existing space that you and your child know will be quiet, comfortable, and as distraction-free as possible. This may be at the kitchen table, in the child's bedroom, or a space shared with their siblings. When selecting a space for your child to work:

- Make sure there is good lighting.
- Ask your child if the space is working for them. Adjust accordingly.
- Empower students to make the space their own.



CREATE A ROUTINE. Routines can help provide children with structure, and even make it easier on parents to manage time and schedules, too. Work with your child to create a daily routine and visual schedule that includes images to represent what your child will do throughout the day. When creating your routine:

- Build in breaks throughout the day.
- Allow time for flexibility.
- Start with more challenging tasks in the morning.



ORGANIZE MATERIALS. Check in with your child to create a list of materials they need to be successful when learning at home.

- Work with your child to organize materials in their learning space so everything is accessible and your child can independently find whatever they need.
- Check out the [Staying Organized for Remote Learning Guide](#) for more tips.

As You And Your Child Work Together To Choose Or Create A Place For Remote Learning, Ask Them A Few Questions To See If It Provides The Six Functions Of A Good Learning Environment:³

- Do you feel safe and comfortable in your learning space?
- Can you interact with your teacher and classmates when you need to?
- Does your learning place feel like it is “yours” and fits your preferences?
- Do you have the tools and materials you need to learn and do the tasks your teachers ask you to do?
- Do you like learning in this space?
- Does this space let you grow academically and personally?



How can I support my child’s success at home if creating a remote learning space is not an option?

We understand the many challenges families face when it comes to remote learning, including finding or dedicating specific space. If designating a space at home is not an option, you can still set your child up for success.

- If you know your child may have to work in different spaces, talk with your child about what a flexible routine might look like and organize materials in a portable carrying case with a secured lid or zipper.
- If the space where your child does their schoolwork can become noisy at times, offer some headphones to help them focus.

Additional Resources:

- [Seven Tips For Setting Up a Productive Learning Space At Home \(Khan Academy\)](#)
- [How to Set Up a Remote Learning Space for Your Kids \(New York Times\)](#)
- [Family Guide to At-Home Learning \(Ceedar Center\)](#)

References: ¹ Moos, 1979, p. 6 ² Choi, van Merriënboer, & Paas, 2014 ³ Steele, 173