



March 16, 2020

Dear families and caregivers,

We know that the recent events surround COVID-19 have brought uncertainty and stress, especially when thinking about access to education support services and community resources. As we are still in a temporary closure, we have provided some suggestions for learning engagement in the home. These are not in replace of school or IEP services, but ideas to support your child in the home based setting. We are continuing to work with schools and RESCs across the state of Connecticut, as well as the State Department of Education, as we think through next steps and plan for our most complex learners. We will be in close communication with any information that we receive regarding supports and services for your child. There are many free online resources coming forward from various educational platforms. In an effort to simplify and prioritize supports that you might implement at home, we have included the following recommendations and some online resources categorized below. We may be able to provide hard copies of some resources listed below, please email us if you would like us to make arrangements to get these to you.

We hope that you stay healthy and well.

Sincerely,

The LEARN Student Support Services Team

Priorities for Supporting Students at Home

1. **Determine a scheduled for the day and communicate this with your child.** Our students thrive off of defined expectations, visual supports, choice and first/then language. Outlining the overall day and expectations can increase independence and mastery and support the reduction of challenging behavior.
2. **Break down tasks and routines.** Help to build your child's independence with household chores, daily living skills, basic academic routines, and game play by using simple number lists and visual task analysis.
3. **Prompt functional communication.** Support your child in communicating their wants and needs in order to reduce frustration and encourage language.
4. **Utilize everyday tasks to practice and build skills.** Remember that this is so much to learn in everyday chores and routines. Maximize the time to practice dressing, toileting, chores, cooking, and play!
5. **Build language.** Talk with your child, use attributes to describe things, ask questions, label items in the house, sort household items into categories, talk

about where things are located, look at pictures of family and friends and label them.

6. **Set expectations and reinforce positive behavior.** Prior to transitioning between activities or setting a demand, set clear expectations for success. (Example: When I ask you to clean up, please put four toys in the box.) When your child engages in behaviors that you want to see, tell them or show them! (Example: You did a great job putting all your toys away!, Wow, high five!)