



# PACIFIC PREPARATORY

## Top Ten Tips to Optimize At-Home Learning

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Part of our job as at-home learning experts includes helping families create optimal environments at home to engage their kids in the learning process. After nearly two decades of experience, here are the top ten tips we recommend to families.

## Tip #1

# Create Space

Designate a quiet part of your house to act as the “classroom,” update the space to encourage focused learning, and incorporate relevant posters, books, supplies and academic resources. Most importantly: make it comfortable and make it fun! You want your kids to look forward to their “classroom” experience.



## Tip #2

# Check Tech

Good tech can make all the difference when it comes to engaging your child in online learning. Make sure your Internet speed is up to par and consider purchasing headphones with a microphone to block out excess noise for one-on-one online sessions with teachers. These sessions also work best when your child uses a document camera, especially if they’re working on writing skills, math, or science.



## Tip #3

# Organize Resources

Children participating in online learning do their best work when they have all the resources they need at their fingertips, especially when they're younger. Place online learning "kits" within their workspace. These kits include manipulatives, games, scissors, small dry-erase boards, and other useful items like lined paper and colored pencils.



## Tip #4

# Foster Sustainable Routines

Devise daily schedules for learning that include a sustainable balance of synchronous and asynchronous learning, breaks, exercise, snacks, extracurricular, and social activities. No one, grow-ups included, can be expected to sit for sustained amounts of time and participate in focused learning. Increase efficiency of focused academic time by taking into account other learning needs.



## Tip #5

# Identify Transitions



Use signals such as phone or calendar alarms to ease transitions from one scheduled activity to the next. One great way to signal change is to have your child move from one location to another, in the same way that they might move from one classroom to another in a brick-and-mortar school environment.

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## Tip #6

# Support Accountability



Help kids stay on track by asking them the following questions before they dive into focused learning time:

- What do I need to get done?
- How long will each task take?
- When will I do them?
- How will I know they are done?
- How will I submit my work?

## Tip #7

# Encourage Balance

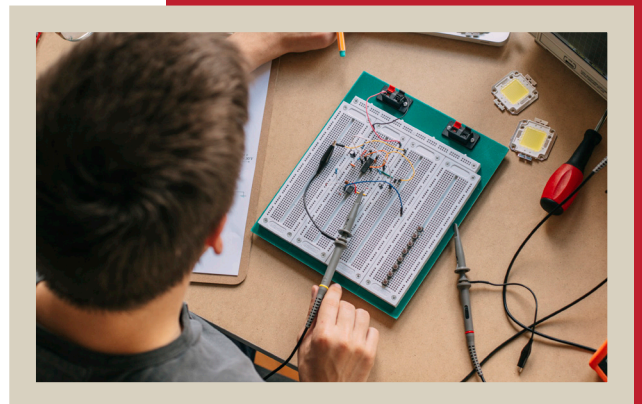
Consider all the easy ways you can support your children with social emotional learning. You can do this by encouraging projects that involve cooking, gardening, outdoor construction projects, and other hands-on household tasks that require executive functioning skills.



## Tip #8

# Think Outside of the Box

Take advantage of the many opportunities presented by at-home learning by helping kids discover, explore, and elevate their passions through one-on-one online work with a mentor. Also, the home itself can become an amazing resource for learning. The kitchen and garden can be turned into science labs. The wall can be covered in corkboard and turned into an art display.





## Tip #9

# Get Buy-In

Include the whole family in creating your daily routine so everyone has buy-in around activities, which reduces opportunities for resistance and helps kids feel empowered.



## Tip #10

# Ask for Help

You're not alone. Don't hesitate to seek help from professionals, family members or friends who can provide scaffolding and accountability support for an at-home learning program.

## READY TO GET STARTED?

Contact us to learn more about how Pacific Preparatory can support your at-home learning plans.

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