WEEKLY CHAT

SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM IN THE CORONAVIRUS ERA

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MAC’s Autism Center is grateful for the generous support of the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation
According to the federal Department of Education and state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

**Schools must provide special education services remotely to all students with disabilities.**
Special education services

Resources and Supports

• Strategies, assignments, projects and packets

Instruction and Services

• full class, small group instruction, or 1:1
  • parent consultation sessions,
• related services such as occupational therapy, speech therapy, ABA, counseling

[Virtual, On-line, and/or Telephonic]
---Direct, regular, ongoing communication between school and family

---Addressing current IEP goals and services

--Provide accommodations needed for materials
The remote learning plan should provide information about your child’s instruction and services, including:

--A schedule for regular, ongoing communication (phone, e-mail, video conference)
--The list of individual teachers, related service providers, and/or other educators who will be providing instruction and services
--The schedule and length of time for providing instruction and services remotely to your child
--The type of assignments, projects, and packets that you can expect to receive from your child’s educators;
--How your child’s general educators, special educators, and related service providers will collaborate
--The start date for providing these services to your child
Areas of Need for Students with Autism

Communication Needs

--AAC

--Remote or Tele-speech therapy

--Social communication
Behavioral Needs

---ABA from school

--ABA from insurance
Areas of Need for Students with Autism

Anxiety
Academics
Functional skills
Executive functioning
Sensory issues
Transition needs older youth
Remote Learning is new for every student in Needham, this state, this country, and around the world. It is EXPECTED that working with technology in new ways is going to be FRUSTRATING. This ‘feeling of’ being FRUSTRATED is happening with every student (and teacher) right now. This checklist is designed to get your brain ready for remote learning and to help you navigate FRUSTRATING feelings.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Check When Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before starting your work, do something that is calming and fun. This will get you ready for learning.</td>
<td>1) Take a walk outside with your family 2) Watch 15 minutes of YouTube videos about space or technology or funny animals 3) Have a good meal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where are you on the 5 Point Scale?</td>
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| Where are you on the 5 Point Scale? | |

Getting Ready To Work. Technology is going to be frustrating. Sometimes the tools don’t work the first time because so many people are trying to use it at the same time. These are 3 strategies for dealing with frustration. Which one (or more) are you going to try to use? | Walk away from the computer for 5 minutes Ask for help or let your mom help you Take 3 deep breaths and try again |

| After Work. Did you use a strategy? If so, which one? | Name the strategy |
| Where are you on the 5 Point Scale? | |

| Where are you on the 5 Point Scale? | |

Reward. When you complete this checklist, you can earn a reward. You will earn $1 | |
Team meetings

• IEP meetings can happen now (by video or phone)

• Schools should collaborate with parents to schedule team meetings
Compensatory Services

• Will be evaluated case by case

• Best to get as many services as possible now.
What you can do now

Contact your school district
Tell them what you are most concerned about for your child

Sample e-mail message requesting special education services during COVID-19 school closures

keep track of what school is doing/how child is doing
Resources

• MAC Helpline: (617) 357-8431 EXT. 3224

• https://www.massadvocates.org/covid19

• Click here for Q&A on special education and the Covid19 outbreak

• How to talk about Corona Virus with kids
RESOURCES

Helpline: (617) 357-8431
massadvocates.org/helpline

COVID-19 Resources
massadvocates.org/covid19

Blank Remote Learning Plan & Sample Remote Learning Plan from DESE
massadvocates.org/newcovidresources

Q&A on Special Education and Covid 19
massadvocates.org/events

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @MassAdvocates

Additional questions & topic suggestions
Contact communications@massadvocates.org
State DESE: COVID19K12ParentInfo@mass. (781) 338-3700

DESE’S Family Resources Toolbox: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L63twjZ52GAK-GqY3YQDgWxxvdV-Th KC/view

Blank Remote Learning Plan & Sample Remote Learning Plan from DESE: www.massadvocates.org/newcovidresources
AAC
- Chat board: Covid 19 Chat Board: Daily Schedule
- Social Story about the Coronavirus: https://theautismeducator.ie/2020/03/11/corona-virus-social-story/
- AAC and Telepractice: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1h_zpv-hENx7Ja1cHcOQLenrEEhusPNXIRBMVUMjKM40/edit#slide=id.g81a84287c9_2_0
- https://praacticalaac.org/?s=natoci
- Eater Seals school closures tool kit: https://qrgcustomers.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/account4876975/6576200_1.pdf?0.9405035283981562

Speech Therapy

Social Communication
- SoSocial communication Addressing Social and Communication Needs of Children During COVID-19 School Closures by Pamela Ely Supporting Social Success & Communication at Home Activities
Behavioral Needs

ABA

Mass Health: FAQs for Behavioral Analysis Provider -- updated 3/30/20

MassHealth: FAQs for Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) Provider -- updated 3/30/20


Behavior Analyst Certification Board: Ethics Guidance for ABA Providers During COVID-19 Pandemic