Effective communication and support for parents of students with disabilities

5 Key Principles

1. Check in with the family
2. Establish a good pattern of communication
3. Set out clear goals
4. Suggest teaching strategies
5. Use multiple formats to engage

Check in with the family

Find out the basics...

- What barriers are you finding to learning at home?
- What supports do you need?
- Do you have broadband at home?
- Do you need any technology or devices?
- How much time can you give?

Establish a good pattern of communication

- Communication with parents is key, let them know you are there!
- See what communication is expected from parents.
- Agree a plan of daily/weekly contact depending on the child/parent context, with a minimum of weekly contact.
- Use mixed forms of contact such as phone calls, email, Zoom etc.

www.tcd.ie/Education/research/Family-Digital-Literacy
3

Set out clear goals

- Break learning goals down into smaller units and relay to parents

4

Suggest teaching strategies

Advise parents for when there is a difficulty to ask:
- Is it a problem of motivation?
  Or
- Is it a problem of skills?
The solutions are different for each one.

Some solutions can be found at https://interact.adaptcentre.ie

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Use multiple formats to engage

- Provide material in multiple formats: hard copy, video, audio, picture and text.
- Provide the option for students to do the same in reporting or representing their work (apps can promote this).

Top 10 Universal Design Tips for Designing an Engaging Learning Environment
http://castprofessionallearning.org/project/top-10-udl-tips-for-engagement/

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