



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 phonecalls, email, Zoom etc.



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>



5

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/>

