

Tips/suggestions for Parents Homeschooling Students with IEPs/Disabilities

Dear Parents,

As a parent who has been homeschooling my own children during this pandemic, I know it can be a frustrating and confusing task to try and understand and teach the lessons to your child. As an intervention specialist, I know there are a lot of interventions and strategies you can do with your child to help him/her be more successful, but also give the student what he/she needs based on the IEP.

If your child has an IEP, please refer to it to see what kind of academics he/she struggles with and use the accommodations/modifications provided in the document. I am providing some of these interventions below and hopefully explain them in a way that parents can understand and apply when working with their children. Please know that we are all in this together and try not to stress over not getting the work done accurately or taking too long to complete work. Refer to the information below to see what may or may not help when working with your child in the next few weeks on his/her assignments and please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at Jennifer.dadisman@nilesmckinley.org. I have also provided some websites that may have some helpful tools for you to use. I miss your children and think about them daily!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dadisman
4th grade Intervention Specialist



Reading/Writing Interventions:

- Read Aloud for Comprehension - Read the passage aloud to your child and discuss what is being read orally with them. This is best for students who struggle or cannot read independently, but have to go back and locate/find information or answer questions relating to the text. Stop and discuss what has happened in increments as to not to overload information.
- Read aloud/Repeated Reading for Fluency/Decoding Practice - Practice modeling passages in smaller sections and let your child hear and see the passage you read. Allow them to read with you (choral reading) and allow them to practice reading the words on their own. It is better to take smaller parts of a longer story to do this. Highlight a paragraph or two from one of their assignments for a good visual.
- Previewing text features for comprehension/ Frontloading - If your child struggles to read, then obviously he or she struggles to understand what the text is about. There are little tricks to help your child better understand by using clues. Study the pictures in the passages and especially in non-fiction, talk about the topics and subheadings to get a good idea on what the text is about. Use your prior knowledge and talk about what you already know about the topic with your child before, during and after reading to help them comprehend. Also, with content subjects such as Science and Social Studies, always read the passage aloud several times to and with your child if they struggle to read on their own.
- Highlighting/color-coding - If your child struggles understanding and comprehending stories and text, minimize the answer choices if there are multiple choice questions. Don't overwhelm him/her with a lot, but keep simple choices and highlight 2 or 3 possible answers to choose from. Also, using highlighters in different colors to highlight important phrases in the text that match corresponding questions can help. Getting rid of any extra non-important information is often beneficial for children who struggle with comprehension.
- Writing Interventions - Many students with IEPs struggle to write physically, but also know how to write sentences and paragraphs accurately. If a scribe or transcribe is an accommodation used for your child, you may write down his/her thoughts for longer essays and compositions. Many of the goals of the writing essays are to organize and write a response to a prompt. Help your child by prompting him or her and guiding.
- Providing Choices and Ideas - It is often hard for students to come up with their own thoughts or ideas, especially when having to write, so giving them ideas or choices to pick from is often beneficial.
- Visuals tools, Checklists, Word Walls - Providing checklists and pictures such as different punctuation, lists of sight words, etc. are all tools you can provide for your child when working on school work. Many websites have a variety of sight word lists and editing checklists, or you can create your own. If your child struggles to spell, allow spell check and help your child spell the words correctly, using inventive spelling if needed.

Math Interventions:

- Multiplication chart/Number line - When completing 4th grade content, students with Math disabilities are allowed to use their multiplication chart and number line to complete basic numeric operations. They use these tools on a regular basis in class and most know how to independently use them to get the answers to basic problems.
- Read Aloud - Read aloud all story word problems to your child so they can understand the problem better.
- Modeling - Model several problems of the same kind to your child and then do some with your child before having him/her complete some on their own. Use the models/examples provided on the worksheet if there are any to help. (Problems with place value, multiplication/division problems, etc.) Use highlighters to color-code corresponding steps or place values in the problems. (highlighting the hundreds, thousands, etc. digits different colors)
- Flashcards!! - Purchase or have your child make addition/subtraction/multiplication/division flashcards and practice, practice, practice. Practice daily in small increments and embed them into their daily homeschooling lessons for rote practice. (EX: Practice Addition facts through 10 for a week before moving onto subtraction the following week).

- Give your child breaks, especially if they lost focus easily, break longer tasks apart and don't do more difficult tasks for too long without a brain/exercise break, allow movement or standing during work time if needed and or something to fidget with, sometimes chewing gum or sucking on candy can help students if they get anxiety

Helpful Websites with Tools/Suggestions for Students/Parents:

- Interventioncentral.org
- Study Island (Please e-mail me if you do not have your child's sign in information)
- Funbrain
- Storylineonline.net
- AAAMath

****** Parents ******

I also added additional and unique lessons to Study Island if your child is assigned to my caseload. Please check the website for those Math and Reading Assignments. Thank you!