

# Strategies for Engaging Students in Blended and Online Learning

## Increasing Student Engagement : Tips for Parents

Parents have a very **important** role to play in helping students remain engaged in blended and online learning environments.

### LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

**Goal:** Use home or community resources to create an established learning space

**Strategies:**

- Make sure the space has sufficient lighting and minimal noise **distractors**
- Set up an area as a "school" zone at home and include **essentials**
- Identify and remove potential **distractions**

#### Learning Space Essentials



Headphones



Paper



Resources



Pencils



Water

#### Learning Space Distractors



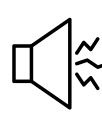
Television



Toys



Social Media



Noise



Pets

### DIGITAL DEVICES

**Goal:** Focus on managing when and how electronic devices are used

**Strategies:**

- During work time, put cellphones out-of-sight or turn on 'Do Not Disturb' mode
- Use a timer to help students transition between work and free time
- Monitor student devices to ensure responsible digital behavior

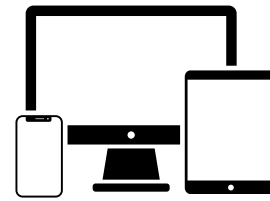
#### Use Timers



#### Use Do-Not-Disturb



#### Monitor Student Devices

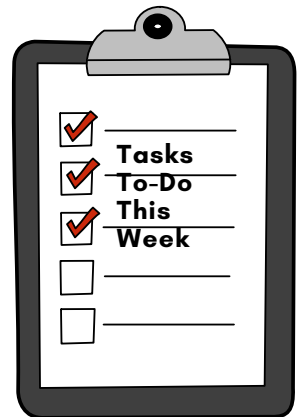
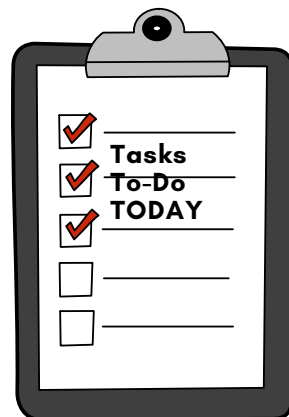


### ROUTINES & DAILY PLANS

**Goal:** Promote a structured school routine to keep students on schedule.

**Strategies:**

- Have a printed school schedule visible for both the family and the student to reduce distractions
- Include breaks for the bathroom, lunch, snacks, and recess
- Set up a daily to-do list based on the online class schedule and tasks from teachers



### ENCOURAGE & SUPPORT

**Goal:** Focus on ensuring students are holistically healthy.

**Strategies:**

- Be your child's cheerleader and advocate when they run into problems
- Support them by discussing different ways of learning content and helping them find resources
- Listen to their concerns and show empathy; ask open-ended questions

#### Active Listening

**Avoid Saying:** How was school today?

**Instead Say...**

- > What made you smile/laugh today?
- > How would you like to be supported in your upcoming tasks?
- > What is something you are proud of that you completed today?
- > Tell me about something you learned today.

#### References:

- Achieve Virtual Blog (n.d.). *Strategies for Online Schooling that Keep Students Engaged*. <https://achievetraining.org/blog/parent-resources/how-to-keep-students-engaged-online-school/>
- Achieve Virtual Blog (n.d.). *School Preparation*. <https://achievetraining.org/blog/parent-resources/a-parents-role-in-virtual-education/>