Tips for Creating a Successful and Inviting Digital Space for your Child

Designated Space
You know your child and how they work best. Identify a place in your home that is conducive to learning and will work for you and your family.

Technology
Each student will be receiving, or have already received, their very own device. It is very important that your child use the device given to them because it has all the applications needed for learning. Have the charging cord close by. Consider the use of headphones to help block out any background noise.

Non-School Related Technology
While all technology has its place, your child's designated space should be away from distracting electronic devices that would not be used in the school building such as video gaming systems, phones, music, etc.

Materials and Manipulatives
Have all of your child's learning materials in one space so they are always prepared and know where to find everything they will need. Sometimes it helps to have your child put the items where they belong so they have ownership in this process. Manipulatives such as base ten blocks, fraction bars, dry erase boards and markers, etc. will be distributed. These materials should be kept in a safe space so they can be accessed throughout our digital learning time.

Productive Struggle
Treat this time as if your student were in the school building and allow them to work through challenging tasks prior to helping them. This will create an environment in which your child understands and takes ownership of their learning without consistently relying on support from parents and/or caregivers.

Visuals or Expectations/Rules
Discuss your families expectations and rules of digital learning. Try providing an opportunity for your child to help create those expectations and rules. Once agreed upon, make them visible in their work space.
Examples:
- Use a quiet voice when others are working
- Take a deep breath and count to 10 if you are feeling frustrated
- Try solving the problem before asking for help
- Work hard and try your best
- Clean up your space when your work is complete
- One healthy snack at ___a.m. & one snack of your choice at ___p.m.

Please see the back of this paper for more tips!

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Timers

Timers can be very helpful to help kids stay on track and know how much time is left. This can be used to track the time your child spends on Lexia Core5 and Dreambox as well. There are some built in breaks and lunch and recess. Setting a timer will also help everyone know when it is time to get prepared for the next task.

Choice

Choice is one of the biggest motivators for children and allows them to take control. During asynchronous learning opportunities, giving a "this or that" task is one way to help your child select and complete those types of tasks.

First/Then

Another great tool as a parent or caregiver during this time is to use the First/Then cueing system. **"FIRST** (non-preferred task) you need to complete your content lesson, **THEN** (one preferred task) you can take 2 minutes to draw, have a fruit, take a break, etc.)

Praise and Rewards

We all work best when we know we are working towards a reward and making those around us happy and proud. The rewards can be as simple as a sticker, or their choice of dinner that night. Praise is best when it is specific. Examples include:

- "Beautiful handwriting."
- "I like the way you stayed quiet while your brother was on a live lesson."
- "We are really proud of you for trying to solve that hard math problem on your own."