

**SPECIAL ISSUE,
27TH MARCH**

SSENS TEAM

****Home Learning****

In this exceptional and unprecedented time we are facing together, many parents are experiencing a new role as 'teacher'. For those of children with a Special Educational Need (SEN) this may raise some unique challenges, and we would like to offer some ideas that might help. As a starting point we have included ideas about structuring your day and supporting reading, as well as a reassuring article which emphasizes that parenting always takes priority over teaching.

Helping Concentration

We have put together some top tips for helping with concentration that you might want to try—start with one or two, it is not intended that you try and do all of them in one go. There is also a similar article from Autism Parenting Magazine aimed specifically at those on the spectrum.

Choosing a Reading Book

It can be difficult to know if a book is the right level for a child to read on their own. Have a look at our simple 'Book Choice' guide that has a really simple way of checking if a book is at the right level.

READING WITH YOUR CHILD

If your child is reluctant to read to you, try out the attached 'Paired Reading' strategy. This removes the difficulty as the adult (or helper) steps in. Another idea is to share the reading—take it in turns: sentences, paragraphs or pages can be alternated, or they can even read each sentence after you do when at they are early readers and tackling a new book.

Spelling Support Strategies

If your child has difficulty with spellings, try out some of the ways of practicing in the 'Driver Youth Trust' document. Use whichever words suit your child—maybe they are stuck on 'because' and would love to be able to spell 'tyrannosaurus'. Don't learn many—5 is plenty!

Independent Learning

With many parents trying to work alongside helping their children, resources children can use independently are important. Here are a few you might want to try:

Learn to type for free – try <https://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/> or [BBC Dancemat](#)

Microsoft Accessibility Tools support learners using reading & dictation functions. It's free—more from the MS SEND Consultant Arran Smith [here](#).

TTS Workbooks are currently available free—there's are 3 available—aimed at EY, KS1 and KS2, but could easily be used as suited your child. (Only the title page has the level on.)

[Click here to download.](#)

More help and advice?

If you would like more advice, the best point of contact would be your school's SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). If school is not answering the phone at the moment, an email should get through.

****DON'T FORGET**** This is an unprecedented emergency situation nobody has planned for. What you are doing is enough. Here's a useful perspective from a headteacher. [Click here.](#)