

# Parent Tip #23

## Creating a work space with a to-do list.

- For the first time, many children and young adults will be expected to complete schoolwork in the home setting. Individuals with "learning differences" may have difficulty generalizing the strategies and skills they used in the school environment to the home environment (e.g. organizing materials, attending to work activities, submitting assignments online). Thus, it will be helpful to establish a designated workspace to help clarify expectations and reduce distractions. This may be a spot at the dining room table designated by a colored placemat and facing away from the television or window. If multiple children are working in one space, consider adding a small visual divider (e.g. an open folder) between them. Parents can create a visual "to-do" list in several different ways—
  - a) placing the individual worksheets to be completed on the child's left and a small basket on the child's right to put them in when they are finished, or
  - b) writing a short list on a sticky note of the tasks to accomplish during the work session (e.g. 1 science story and 15 minutes of ABC Mouse). These can be crossed off when they are finished. Older children and young adults can likely generate their own to-do lists but may need some initial support to establish a workspace and launch these routines.

Adapted from (AFIRM) is an extension of the National Professional Development Center (NPDC) on ASD

