# Strategies for Supporting Students

Below are some general strategies and tips for students with disabilities, English Language Learners, or for students who may need some additional support with completing learning tasks at home. Keep in mind these ideas can be adapted for a wide range of ages, and you can adapt however is needed to help support your student.

## Organization, Focus, and Work Completion

### Learning Space:
- Create or find a place in the home with limited distractions.
- Keep supplies and materials in the area for easy access, including usernames and passwords if needed.
- Create ways to keep paperwork organized, such as using binders, file folders, or bins.

**Idea:** Create a study carrel with a cardboard box.

### Learning Time:
- Create a schedule for learning. Find the time your child learns best and stick to it.
- Consider adding pictures or graphics for students that would benefit from a visual schedule. (Example App: Visual Schedule Lite)
- Use a timer to help your child learn to manage their time and focus during work times. This could include a first, then schedule. First, do one problem, then take a 2-minute break. Or, first complete one assignment, then get a 15-minute break. (Example App: Visual Countdown Timer)
- Help your child stay on track using a checklist of tasks that need to be completed. This could be a daily or weekly task list.
- Allow your child to take breaks! Help your child learn to activate their mind and body by going for walks, reading their favorite book, drawing, and socializing with their family and friends online.

### Reading
- Read aloud to or with your child. You can read a text first and then have your child read it back to you or read it together at the same time.
- Read written directions out loud and have them repeat or paraphrase the directions back to you to ensure they understand. Simplify important ideas as needed.
- Provide colored strips or bookmarks to help focus on one line of text while reading. Help your child break apart reading into smaller sections. For example, reading one sentence, paragraph, or page at a time.

### Writing
- Consider allowing different ways for your child to show their learning, such as drawing or sketching their thinking.
- Use sentence starters or sentence frames to scaffold writing, in which your child can finish the sentence or fill in the blanks.
- Allow your child to tell you verbally their answer. You can write it down for them or record their key ideas. Take turns writing sentences or words.

### Math
- Provide manipulatives, or objects, for your child such as blocks, pasta pieces, beans, or coins.
- Use math tools such as a number line or multiplication table.