

Creating An Action Plan For Your Child

By Liz Dunoon

Start supporting your child or student today

Here's how to get started...

1. Start observing your child and take notes of their strengths and weaknesses.
2. Start collecting samples of your child's schoolwork and items that demonstrate their strengths and weaknesses.
3. Talk to your child's school.
4. Get a notebook to keep track of any conversation, meetings and phone calls regarding your child. Include dates, who was present, and the outcome.
5. Get a folder to keep copies of notes, letters, documents and school reports.
6. Make sure the school has a 'support plan' for your child that includes access to a support teacher for skills teaching and allows for accommodations in the classroom and for assessments.
7. Speak to the school regularly and check that teachers are aware of your child's report, support plan and learning needs.
8. I recommend doing this at the beginning of every school term. Your aim is to ensure their learning strengths are being utilised and their learning weakness supported.

For example you may ask:

- Whether your child is receiving small group support and how often?
- Is there minimal copying from the whiteboard?
- Are class notes provided in various formats?
- Is my child using a computer for writing or is a scribe provided?
- Can they use grid paper not lined paper, for math?
- Are audio text and audio books available?
- Is there a multisensory literacy program?
- Is my child getting extra time for tests and exams?
- Are they allowed to give oral responses instead of writing when doing assessments?

The questions you ask should stem from your child's diagnostic report and from the support plan that has been created for them by the school.

9. Continue to maintain open lines of communication between your child, your school and yourself via email, phone or regular personal contact.
10. Find a good multisensory learning program that you can use at home to support what is being taught at school, or hire a specialist tutor.
11. Put a community support system in place for your child – consider immediate family, extended family and friends, your child's friends, teachers and local community groups.
12. Put strategies in place to maintain and build your child's self-esteem and confidence. Allow them to focus on their areas of interest and strength.