

Video Transcript : Supporting The Home-School Partnership: A Navigation Guide for Parents

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The logo of LD@school is displayed.

Brought to you by LD@school:

An initiative supporting Ontario educators in empowering students with learning disabilities, including those with co-occurring conditions such as ADHD and other neurodiverse learning profiles.

This session is part of our ongoing work to share evidence-informed strategies, tools, and professional learning resources.

LD@school is a signature initiative of: The logo of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) appears at the bottom of the slide.

Supporting The Home-School Partnership: A Navigation Guide for Parents

https://www.ldathome.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Supporting-the-Home-School-Partnership-Nov-22_2024.pdf

Every child learns in their own unique way. But sometimes, learning can be especially challenging — even when a child is trying their best. If you've ever wondered why your child may be struggling with reading, writing, math, and how you can best support them this video is for you.

Supporting your child in their school journey includes some key elements; an understanding of your child's specific needs and the best way to help them, a strong working relationship with your child's school, and being an effective and informed advocate.

These will ensure a successful positive educational experience for both you and your child.

What Are Learning Disabilities (LDs)?

Learning disabilities, or LDs, are differences in the way a person takes in, stores, or uses information. They can affect basic skills like reading, writing, and math, as well as higher-level skills like organization, time management, or communication.

What LDs Can Look Like

LDs affect every child differently. Some may find reading hard but are great at math. Others might struggle to stay focused or manage their time.

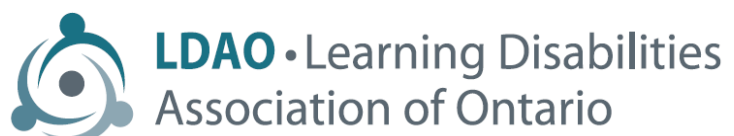
“My son is so creative and funny, but he just couldn't keep up with writing assignments.”

“We thought she wasn't trying hard enough, but she was just overwhelmed and discouraged.”

What About ADHD?

ADHD — or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder — is a neurobiological condition that often appears in early childhood. It's not a learning disability, but it frequently co-occurs with one.

Students with ADHD may have trouble focusing, sitting still, or finishing tasks — all of which impact learning.



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Supporting Your Child at School and Home

Children with LDs and/or ADHD thrive when they get the right support and home and school work together. Strategies like using checklists, timers, assistive technology, and visual aids can make a big difference in classroom engagement and success.

- Record instructions to replay later

- Break tasks into steps

- Use fidgets or movement breaks

- Set up a visual schedule

- Try speech-to-text tools

Building routines at home and working closely with your child's school can lead to real progress.

Supporting Homework and Routines at Home

Students with a Learning Disability or ADHD often need help managing homework. You can support your child through encouragement and positive reinforcement.

- Creating a consistent schedule

- Using a quiet, organized workspace

- Breaking tasks into smaller steps

- Using visual reminders and checklists

- Starting tasks together, then stepping back

- Working together, and lots of patience go a long way.

Working With the School — Steps to Take

You know your child best. If you're concerned, start by meeting with their teacher. Together, you can identify challenges and put a support plan in place.

- Step 1: Meet with the Teacher

- Step 2: Meet with the In-School Team

- Step 3: Understanding Assessments

- Step 4: Diagnosis & IPRC Referral

If needed, you can explore the possibility of a psychoeducational assessment — either privately or through the school board — to get a full picture of your child's strengths and challenges.

If your child is identified as having a learning disability, the school will develop an Individual Education Plan, - an IEP. This plan outlines personalized goals, accommodations, and how your child will be supported.

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Stay connected with your child’s teacher. Share updates. Ask questions. Work as a team. And when something isn’t working, speak up. Your voice matters.

There may be bumps in the road, but with the right strategies and support, your child can thrive.

Becoming an Effective Advocate for Your Child

As a parent, you play a critical role in your child’s education. That means advocating for them — not just once, but throughout their school journey.

Tip 1: Attend Every Meeting

Show up, share what works at home, and stay involved — you're part of the team.

Tip 2: Keep Records

Save report cards, assessments, and emails to track progress and decisions.

Tip 3: Work With the Teacher

Stay in touch, share strategies, and listen — partnership makes a difference.

Tip 4: Know Your Rights

Learn about the IPRC, IEP, and education laws to feel confident in advocacy.

Tip 5: Involve Your Child

Support your child in speaking up and building confidence over time.

What it Means to Be an Effective Advocate

Being an advocate doesn’t mean being pushy. It means being informed, consistent, and respectful. Here's what effective advocacy looks like:

Be Informed – Learn about LDs, ADHD, and how the system works

Advocate Consistently – Stay involved even when things are going well

Communicate Assertively – Clear, respectful, firm conversations

Stay Persistent – Don’t give up at the first sign of resistance

Be Realistic – Understand your child’s needs and potential

Join an Advocacy Group – Connect with others through LDAO

Balance Advocacy and Support – Know when to push, and when to listen

Encourage Self-Advocacy – Let your child take the lead, step by step

What it Means to Be Assertive (Not Aggressive)

Assertiveness is the key to productive communication with your child’s school.

Knowing Your Rights – and your responsibilities

Understanding the Plan – Be familiar with your child’s IEP or support strategy

Seeking Clarity – Ask questions until you understand

Participating Actively – Attend meetings and speak up

Maintaining Records – Keep communication organized

Communicating Courteously but Firmly – You can disagree respectfully

Building a Support Network – Know who to turn to in and out of school

Expressing Appreciation – Thank those who help your child

Believing in Your Role – Never underestimate how important you are

There's no need to do this alone. Here are some helpful resources:

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO)

www.ldao.ca

Find Your Local LDAO Chapter

www.ldathome.ca/in-your-community

Shared Solutions: Conflict Resolution Guide

www.ontario.ca/page/shared-solutions

Your child's journey may be filled with challenges — but also with growth, resilience, and success. Together, with the right support, you can help your child reach their full potential.

Every child has potential. With understanding, support, and advocacy, your child can shine — both in school and beyond.

You are your child's biggest advocate. Stay curious, stay involved — and never stop believing in their potential.

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The logo of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) appears at the top of the slide, with the slogan: "The right to learn, the power to achieve"

Thank You for Joining Us

Presented by LD@school, a signature initiative of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO).

About LDAO:

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario is a non-profit organization with over six decades of leadership in learning disabilities and co-occurring conditions such as ADHD.

Through LD@school, we provide educators with free, accessible, and evidence-based resources to build more inclusive classrooms across Ontario.

We're committed to: Reducing stigma; Advancing accessibility; Building inclusive learning and working environments; Empowering individuals and families through knowledge and support.

The LD@school logo appears on the right side of the slide.

Visit us: www.LDAO.ca and Explore more: www.LDatschool.ca appear at the bottom of the slide.