



# TO THE POINTE

PARENTING EDITION / SUMMIT POINTE - NUMBER 4

## Creating a Structured and Successful Virtual Learning Space at Home

Lindsey Thomas, LMSW & Jennifer Myles, LPC

It is true that our children have been back to school for several weeks now. I am wondering how many parents have found it difficult to keep their children on track while they are supposed to be in their virtual classrooms. The struggle is real. Children get distracted easily by the things around them, especially in the home setting. It may be helpful as the adult to take a look at the space around which your child is in during their virtual learning to decrease the amount of distractions and increase the amount of learning that can take place. Here are some helpful tips. See how many tips you can setup in your child's space to increase success.

- Identify one space for learning. (It helps if the space can be easily monitored by adults.) Possible options include; computer desk, dining room table, or kitchen table. (Stay away from areas that increase distraction such as places where the TV, video games, or toys may be.)
- Keep this space clean and organized. (Use storage bins, shelves, other containers to help keep things neat and tidy.)
- Post a daily schedule. (Most schools provided some type of daily routine/class schedule, make this visible in the learning space. It is also important to have a calendar available as well.)
- Create a "cozy" spot for reading assignments and other quiet tasks.
- Take interest in what is happening in your child's virtual classroom. (Make it a point to listen in to their virtual lessons, dialogs with their classmates and teachers, checks grades regularly, and look into attendance throughout the week.)
- Set a clear routine for getting ready for school, taking breaks, and lunch times. (Routines make the day go easier and provide a sense of security for children.)
- Fill a bowl with fidget toys for your child so that they have something to grab when they are feeling restless.
- Have a clock in the work space for help with time management.

See the attached picture for an inexpensive way to set up learning space for one or more children in your home. A trifold board can help to create separate space on a table or desk area, plus allows for your child to personalize their desk space.

## Questions?

Please call ... 269/966-1460 Youth Crisis Line ... 269/441-5945

24 hour Crisis ... 1/800-632-5449

Crisis Text Number ... 741741



You can create a learning space at home on a table or desk area. Allow your child to personalize their space. Visit sites on the Internet - like Pinterest - for inspiration!



**Material List:** Trifold board, glue/tape, folders, calendar, calculator, clips for papers, markers, pens, pencils, notebook paper.