

# How to create a dedicated *A+* learning space

*A well-organized, properly-prepared study space is essential for establishing the good habits and effective mindset your student needs to excel. When setting up your student's learning space, consider where your student will learn best, what is needed, and how it should be organized. Include your child in the decision-making process.*

## Location

The learning space should be:

- **Quiet** — away from distractions like television or siblings engaged in other activities.
- **Monitored** — while online learners have a healthy amount of independence, you should be able to check-in easily to monitor progress.
- **Motivational** — conducive to learning, supporting your student's preference and effort to learn.
- **Mobile** — some students prefer to go from a desk to a cozy chair or the floor. As long as your child is progressing through the work, location changes may help re-focus his or her attention.

## Items to include

Your dedicated space should include:

- **Computer** — needed in almost every aspect of learning, including completing and submitting coursework, evaluating progress, and communicating with teachers and school staff.
- **Printer** — to scan and print school and course documents. Scanning handwritten work or artwork to create digital files for submission to teachers is also helpful.
- **Headset and optional webcam** — often needed to communicate during LiveLesson® sessions.
- **Phone** — to participate in regular progress calls with teachers and contacting school staff.
- **Notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, and paper**
- **Schedules** — list specific times for lessons and family and individual activities—possibly on a whiteboard or a weekly paper plan.
- **Posters** — hang **inspirational** thoughts or quotes for additional motivation.

Preview lessons ahead of time to gather additional or **out-of-the-ordinary supplies** and have them ready to use on the appropriate day.

*continued*



*“Setting up an effective learning space is actually part of the FUN!*

*In anticipation for the upcoming school year, we love to create a dedicated learning area with plenty of sunlight, a dry erase board, bulletin board, desk, bean bag chair for reading, and some inspirational framed prints or posters.*

*It’s essential to make it a comfortable, positive atmosphere to make your student excited to be productive!”*

**MELISSA S.**  
*Learning Coach*

*“One thing that helps me have an effective learning space is working at a desk. I like sitting on the bed or couch but I don’t focus as well even though it is more comfortable. Another tip is don’t have anything to distract you, like an electronic item except your computer. The last tip is have a notebook and pencil so you can take notes from your lessons.”*

**CARSON B.**  
*Student*

## Organization

The learning space should be well-organized with essential, easy-to-find materials. Identify and maintain a dedicated storage area. If the space is a dual-functioning space, such as a dining room, organize the supplies for easy setup and take down.

## Planning and creating the space

Involve your student to allow for ownership of the school experience.

- Discuss preferred location, organization of space and materials, and items needed for success.
- Determine responsibilities for maintaining the space.
- Online education often results in more screen time and sitting. To prevent discomfort and added strain, consider the following:
  - The desk or work surface and chair should be the appropriate size for your student.
  - The work surface should be waist height with the ability to rest elbows on the desk or table.
  - The student should be able to place feet flat on the floor or use a footrest.
  - The monitor should be about an arm’s length away with the top third of the screen at the student’s eye level.

