



Shaw Middle School | ABLÉ Newsletter

Week of 4/27/2020

Hello ABLÉ families,

Good morning and we hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy. We can say with some certainty that we finally have an idea of what services should look like for the rest of the school year. While OSPI came out with their recommended guidelines for the amount of work each student should do they have also acknowledged that each student is different with varying needs. This upcoming week your child's teacher will be calling to work with you on setting up a Learning Plan that is specific to your child's needs. This is to be done together to ensure that you have the materials and guidance needed to deliver instruction if you so choose. Beginning the week of May 4th Mr. Olson and Mr. McCullough will be holding 15 minute live Zoom meetings for your child. These meetings have been tentatively scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Be on the lookout for email invites if you want your child to attend!



Recap

This week we will be developing individualized lesson plans to send out to you weekly. These lesson plans will have suggested activities for you to work with your child on. Your child's IEP goals will be listed on the bottoms of these plans so you have a quick reference of goals.

Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to modify or adapt these plans according to your family's needs. Remember, we understand how stressful and challenging these times are. Do not put unnecessary stress on yourselves. Reach out to your child's teacher for any help or directives you need.



Reminders

- **Mr. McCullough and Mr. Olson will be calling this week to set up Learning Plans with you.**
- **Safety** and health of you and your child are our first priority. All work provided to you is encouraged but not mandatory. For many students, work demands are quite a challenge and a trigger. Do what is best for you and your family and most importantly, be safe!
- If you need printed materials rather than having them emailed, Durham bus drivers can drop materials for your student at your residence. Talk with your child's teacher to set this up.



Tips for working with children with autism

- **Avoid sensory overload - It is very easy for students to get distracted. Keep your environment as free of distractions as possible.**
- **Use visuals when possible – Using visuals and modeling what you want your child to do often is more successful than a lengthy explanation. Keep things concrete and simple.**
- **Be predictable – Use a schedule to plan activities/work demands**
- **Use the Premack Principle – First “math” then “student choice of activity/free time”**
- **Familiarize yourself with token economy – Many students in our classes were successful completing work demands when they had a clear beginning and end. We often used tokens to deliver reinforcement for positive behaviors. When students earned 5 tokens during a work session the work session was done, and they exchanged their 5 tokens for a 10-15-minute free time activity. Tokens are also a good way to communicate non-verbally with the individual how close they are to being done with the task.**

Resources:

- [Conscious Discipline, COVID 19: Resources for Families and Educators](#)
- [Special Education Technology Center \(SETC\)](#)
- [Spokane Schools Sped services during COVID 19](#)
- [Do it yourself ABA based lessons for families](#)
- [Autism Speaks - How to handle closures for children with autism](#)
- [Autism Speaks \(info for families\)](#)
- [Token Economy Information](#)
- [Discrete Trial Training explanation and demo](#)

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