

# Giving Your Kids Extra Help

Lots of children need special help. There are ways you can help at home to develop skills that will help your children in the classroom. Here are some tips:

## 1. Make directions specific and simple.

Break complicated tasks into small steps. Limit the child to short subjects and activities, and reward persistence with praise and encouragement.

## 2. Help your child become organized.

Have a place for everything, and require that things are always put back where they belong. Establish routines for doing daily chores and activities, and provide work charts or checklists as reminders for complicated tasks.

## 3. Repeat learning experiences.

Don't assume that your child has learned a skill or task, such as spelling his or her name or tying shoes; an hour later he or she may seem to have forgotten it completely. Repeat directions, perhaps using different words.

## 4. Cooperate with the school.

Request conferences with the teachers. They'll inform you about their methods, which you can reinforce at home.

## 5. Establish clear rules and consequences.

Talk about and agree upon consequences with your child. Write them down as a sort of formal agreement. And be consistent about enforcing them.