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How to Give Your Child with Autism a Head Start on School

Kids on the autism spectrum often face challenges that can make parents feel powerless. It's natural to want to help, yet finding productive methods to do so can be a major dilemma. Even if your child is on a break for the summer, moms and dads have an ideal opportunity to provide assistance that will get things started on the right foot. Here are some ideas from the team at [Yoe Borough's official website](#) on how to give your child a boost at school and ensure your child's teachers are on the same page.

Look to Tech Tools

When it comes to great ways to entice children with autism toward learning, some of the best tools for parents come in technological forms. Consider your youngster's unique characteristics and look for [assistive and adaptive tools](#) with that in mind. Check out these links to a few invaluable articles:

- EdTech explores some of the key reasons why [technological tools](#) can be so invaluable to children with autism in "3 Ways Assistive Technology Can Help Students with Autism."

- “Assistive Technology for Communication Roadmap” offers insights into various [communication-oriented technological help](#). Explore information on everything from [apps](#) for everyday smartphones and tablets, to augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices.
- In [Autism Parenting Magazine’s](#) “Assistive Communication Devices for Children with Autism,” you can research things like learning sign language through [videos](#) to using [AAC devices](#).

If you’re still in a quandary after exploring these resources, touching base with a [speech pathologist](#) can help you determine your best route. Whatever you decide, it’s important to connect with your child’s school system to help them understand the tools selected, and to ensure those tools will be available to your youngster throughout the school day.

Interests and Inclinations

One of the keys to keeping any child interested in learning is to find something that makes the experience more engaging for them. Some experts feel this is especially pertinent when [teaching](#) a child with autism, as it can naturally help with issues like social interaction and communication.

Think through what excites your youngster and start applying it to school work. For example, for kids who love [maps](#), you can design lesson plans oriented toward math, geology, spatial relationships, and measuring. Similarly, if your child is fascinated by the [solar system](#), there is fodder for learning about sizes, shapes, distances, and scale.

A good way to let children with autism explore what interests them is to give them a space that allows them to do so safely. A hobby or crafting room will let them explore the world of arts and crafts without working too much creating a mess that affects other people in the house. Or, you could design a relaxing reading room for your child to dive into a comfortable chair with a book from their favorite writer. If you decide to go in this direction, remember to create a folder with receipts, before-and-after photos, and notes regarding the [changes you’ve made](#); these could be used to help boost the resale value of your home down the road.

Talking with Teachers

Discussing your choices and direction with the school is paramount to implementing a successful plan. You want everyone moving in the same direction, and you will need to present things clearly and realistically to ensure your child’s teachers are on your team. With this in mind, it’s a good idea to schedule a meeting to [discuss](#) your child’s circumstances.

Beforehand, have a chat with your youngster. Find out if there are any particular issues with classes, teachers, or other students, and make some notes about concerns. Think through your

child's particular struggles and strengths as well, particularly in regard to autism. Even though many teachers have experience with children on the autism spectrum, there is a wide range of symptoms, so prepare some notes to help make teachers aware of your youngster's particular needs.

When the meeting comes along, keep an attitude aimed for positivity and proactivity. Avoid saying anything critical, and keep in mind you are all on the same team. Ask for ongoing communication so you can keep abreast of progress, and provide the teacher with your pertinent contact information.

Now is the ideal time to establish plans for a terrific new school year, which will be here before we know it. Gather appropriate tools, consider your child's personal interests and needs, and touch base with teachers to ensure you'll all be working together. With these strategies, your child will be set up for success!