



Return to on-site schooling

Communicating with families

During times of increased anxiety and change, some children with disabilities may experience greater challenges in their learning, behaviours or emotion regulation. Take time to speak to parents and the child about how they coped during this period and what areas they may need support in during the transition. You can learn more about the child, identify relevant strengths and areas where support may be needed, share strategies that have been effective at home and at school and work towards creating consistency across settings.

The following tips can provide a prompt and guidance when speaking with parents:

1. Be ready

Consult with caregivers, health specialists or other relevant parties about how the child coped during this period and what areas they may need support in during the transition.

2. Encourage active participation

Sometimes parents may assume more of a listening role when meeting with their child's teacher. Reassure parents about conversations being an opportunity for collaboration. Encourage active participation and problem solving through asking parents to share their perspective, concerns and experiences. Remember, a parent knows their child best!

3. Start with the positive

Discuss the child's strengths first. Share with the parent any strengths you feel are relevant, and ask the parent what strengths they have identified. Strategies that draw on the student's strengths may be most effective - access AllPlay Learn's [inclusive questions](#) for a guide to drawing on students' strengths and [strengths and abilities communication checklist](#) for a list of some possible strengths.

4. Discuss areas where support may be needed

This is an opportunity for you and the parent to share areas where the student could benefit from support and set goals accordingly. The parent may have identified opportunities for support that you were not aware of, and vice versa. It may be important to work together to explore what the priorities may be, and to share strategies that may be effective.

5. Discuss ways in which you can create consistency across home and school

You may wish to discuss ways in which a parent can support their child's education at home, such as setting up a homework routine, or through ongoing communication. Similarly, parents may have routines or strategies at home that you can support students with at school. Partnering with each other can create consistency and stability for a student.