

Parents' page

Creating a personal learning experience for your child

Generalisations

Everyone learns at different speeds, and everyone has a different preferred learning style. Children search for their own learning style by experimenting, without being aware that they are doing this.

You need to be aware that children learn in different ways and at different speeds. Children may need more support in some areas than in others – for example, a child could be exceptional at maths, but may need help in literacy.

There are a number of important steps that parents of children with special educational needs (SEN) can take to help their child's development.

Showing the purpose of an object

Some children may need help to recognise the relationship between two very different looking objects which share a common purpose – for example:

- a child who uses a touch-screen monitor in school may not understand that the monitor at home does not work in the same way
- a child may not understand that a mobile phone is very different to a land-line phone.

Repetitious use of an object is necessary for the child to understand the purpose of that object.

Demonstrating play

In imaginary play, children sometimes need guidance to help them understand what certain toys represent and how they are used in real life – for example, a toy car being a copy of a vehicle on the road.

A child with SEN needs to handle the toy car a number of times before they will recognise it as a car. As a parent, you might need to show them how to play with it again and again.

Another example would be role play. Children with SEN don't easily develop role play without guidance. As a parent, you might need to act the part of a shopkeeper so your child can understand what that person does.

You may need to relate your role play to a shop you visit regularly, such as a sweetshop or a newsagent – and have fun!

