5 SIMPLE WAYS TO CREATE A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM IN YOUR HOME

by Dusty Rhodes on Apr 23, 2020 in

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With COVID-19 causing nationwide school closures, parents across the country are forced to turn their homes into virtual classrooms. Teachers have been working fervently to provide access to education even though students are not in the classroom. It can be confusing and unsettling when a child's regular routine is disrupted, so it's important to design a space where your child can continue to learn and grow over the next couple of months. In order to make this a smooth transition for your child, consider these simple ideas for creating a virtual classroom in your home.

Dedicate a Space

Kids thrive on structure and routine so it's best to set up a dedicated space where you child can conduct their school lessons each day. Whether it's a home office, bedroom, kitchen counter, or dining room table, create a space where your child can tackle their assignments each day. Having a dedicated space gives your child a specific place to go each day just as they did when they went to school. It helps them develop a sense of routine in these otherwise abnormal times.

Set Up a Desk or Table

Give your child a desk or table where they can set up their things and work more efficiently. A desk is a much more effective way to organize their books, materials, and laptop as opposed to sitting in their beds. It will also help them stay focused on their work. If your child doesn't have a desk, you can set up a card table or let them sit at the kitchen table or dining room table.

Set Up Computer or Tablet

Many teachers are communicating with their students virtually through Zoom classes, Google Hangouts, and other technology applications. Therefore, your child needs the proper equipment to connect with their teachers and classmates. If possible, set up a computer,laptop, or tablet at your child's desk or work table so they have access to online learning. Check on your child to make sure they know how to operate these devices and also to ensure they are staying focused on their lessons even though they are digital.

Limit Distractions

When dedicating a work space for your child, try to choose a space with limited distractions. Avoid high traffic areas or common areas where a TV might be on, as this can easily distract your child from their lesson. Limit outside noise and activity in the home while your children are completing their schoolwork and don't place young children in a room where they might be tempted to play with toys that are within reach.

Provide Other Materials

While tablets, laptops, and computers are certainly a necessity to complete online lessons, they shouldn't be the *only* resource your child has access to. Overuse of screen time can cause headaches and can impact young, developing brains. If possible, supplement their lessons with textbooks and other print materials. Also, stimulate the learning by having regular discussions with your child about what they are learning and encourage reading, writing, art, and other imaginative activities.