



# At Home Behavior Tips

## Maintaining Good Learner Behavior

Learner repertoires are skills that form the foundation of learning. They provide the context for successful academic instruction. Examples of good learner repertoires include sitting, attending, completing and accepting prompts. Practicing these skills at home will help the learner better access instructional materials presented at home and be better prepared to learn when they return to school.

### Skill Area: Sitting and completing

This skill area involves the learner coming to a work area and sitting when prompted to do so. The learner remains seated until the work that has been presented is complete.

### Teaching Procedure

*What you'll need:*

- a. A work surface free of distractions and clutter. **Tip: Have the learner work in the same area each day and make the space well defined with boundaries on three sides.**
- b. At least one simple task. Choose something that the learner already knows how to do, that has a clear beginning and end, and that the learner is very *likely* to do. Use materials that you have around the house.

Examples:

- Place \_\_\_\_ items in a container.
  - Match letters, numbers, colors
  - Sort socks, silverware, coins
- c. A reinforcing activity (iPad, walk) or item (snack, toy) that learner may access after completing.

## STEPS

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| 1 | Prepare the work space with task materials on the left and nothing else.   |
| 2 | Tell the learner that it is time to work. Then tell the learner to sit. <b>Tip: Pair gestures with words.</b>  |
| 3 | Continue until the learner sits. You may need to bring the chair and the work to the learner. That's OK in the beginning.                                      |
| 4 | Reinforce the learner as soon as he/she sits. Say "Great job sitting" or "Great job coming to your seat". Pair with a smile, tickle, praise, give a token etc. |

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| 5 | Immediately begin presenting the work. Use hand over hand assistance if needed but do not force. The activity should be fun and the learner should be successful. |
| 6 | As soon as the learner is finished, say "Great job doing your work!" Interact in a warm, fun, friendly manner.  |
| 7 | Provide the reinforcing item.   |

## BENEFITS

The learner may not be learning a new academic task by doing this, but it strengthens the foundational skills needed to maximize learning. It strengthens listening behaviors (sit when prompted, complete when prompted). It can be used to increase duration of sitting and it makes learning fun so that the learner is eager to come and work with his/her instructor.

### Reference:

Ward, S. and Grimes, T. (2013. ). *Teaching Good Learner Repertoires*

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