

# Handy Tips for working with your learning disabled child

-by Maxine McLellan

1. **Take your time**, you are not in a race.
2. **Patience** is always easier to maintain if you remind yourself that working with this child at this time is exactly what you are supposed to be doing. Banish from your mind thoughts of panic that you are not getting the dishes done, you have a meeting to prepare for, the to-do-list is growing, etc. Focus on your child!
3. **Never compare** your child with another child.
4. **Short 5-15 minute periods** of work are usually more productive than gruelling hour long sessions.
5. **Speak directly** to the child, making good eye contact.
6. **Have the child state in his own words** what is expected.
7. **Read the words, etc. first to the child**, have him read back to you, then discuss his understanding of what was read before he tackles the workbook questions.
8. I personally **hold off having a child do independent writing assignments** until he/she has a good grasp of reading and spelling. To have them write paragraphs loaded with spelling errors reinforces those spelling errors almost permanently in their minds and it can take a long time to learn the correct spellings.
9. **Encourage children** to tell you sentences that you write out for them with correct spelling and that they can copy out. A white marker board is excellent for this.

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