

Special Time & Place

SELECTING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

This level of preparation can help:

- encourage learner ownership
- practice decision making
- provide opportunity for self reflection

When and where a person chooses to learn can improve the overall experience. After establishing the guidelines you want, take the time to support your learner's decisions regarding when and/or where writing and reading will be the most enjoyable and effective.

Perhaps writing is something she looks forward to in the afternoon or right before going to bed. Maybe the comfy chair in the corner of the living room or the swing under the backyard oak is an absolutely perfect spot to explore new literary worlds or investigate interesting people, places, and things.

Giving your learner the opportunity to share her thoughts and ideas about her environment can empower that person and increase the likelihood of participation for an extended period of time. It's important to remember, though, the time and location decided upon by you and your learner should support the efforts being made to improve academic skills.

Once a time and place to write and read have been agreed upon, do so as consistently as possible. It is the repetition of the behavior that has the potential to yield positive results. Taking the time to develop a plan with your learner can go a long way to ensuring that regular skills practice occurs.

Guidance:

Our schedule allows time for reading before lunch. Is there a favorite place you would like to practice reading ?

I would like for us to write at our dining table. It would be fun for us to read something each other has created every week. Would you prefer to practice writing after breakfast or once lunch is over?

Everyone is going to write or read for at least 20 minutes every Monday and Wednesday mornings this summer. Where are some good places to do this ?