



# Strategies for Creating an Effective Learning Environment



## Step 1

Strategies	Instruction at Home	Instruction on a Farm	Instruction at a Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize distractions</li> </ul>	Turn radio and television off, have student(s) turn off phone, have other student(s) in the home reading or doing homework at the same time, if possible.	Have students turn off or silence their phones during lessons.	Find a spot to instruct, read, and study where there is not a lot of noise or interruptions such as ringing phones, people entering/exiting, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize technology</li> </ul>	Battery operated devices such as iPads, MP3 players, or tablets if available, should be brought to the tutoring sessions and utilized in lessons.	Battery operated devices such as iPads, MP3 players, or tablets if available, should be brought to the farm site and utilized in lessons.	Many site-based learning environments have the added bonus of the use of technology such as laptop or desk computers, tablets, iPads, smart boards, etc. These items can assist greatly in the learning process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have supplies ready for use</li> </ul>	Provide supplies such as pencils, paper, calculator, portable dry erase board, and markers, etc. If using a communal table, utilize a bin or tray for supplies.	A backpack is useful to hold supplies such as pencils, paper, workbooks, portable dry erase boards, etc. Also, a flat hard surface for writing, such as a table or clipboard, is useful.	Provide supplies such as pencils, paper, calculator, portable dry erase board, and markers, etc. Keep supplies and other materials together in a bin or basket if possible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find an effective location for study</li> </ul>	Find a location where there is little noise or traffic and where the student can maintain good posture sitting at a table in an upright position. Good posture makes it easier to concentrate. If there are too many distractions, attempt to meet at a more private location.	Try to find a quiet area on the farm where you and the student can concentrate. It may be under a tree, at a picnic table, in the kitchen area after meal times, etc. A place where there is not a lot of noise or traffic is best if possible.	Site-based instruction may afford you a classroom setting in which to work with youth. Try to find a room with minimum traffic flow and outside distractions.



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Strategies	Instruction at Home	Instruction on a Farm	Instruction at a Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a consistent workspace for study</li> </ul>	<p>If you find an area in the home which provides an effective learning environment, continue to utilize this space for lessons.</p>	<p>If you find an area on the farm which is relatively quiet, try to meet there consistently if possible. Establish that area as your tutoring spot.</p>	<p>Try to meet in the same room each time you tutor if possible. A familiar location creates a sense of comfort and stability.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize clutter</li> </ul>	<p>Try to select an area in the home to instruct which has the least amount of clutter. An unorganized space can cause distractions. A feeling of order can help keep students focused and improve learning.</p>	<p>Attempt to find a location on the farm with a minimal amount of clutter. This will make it easier to keep your materials organized in what may be a limited space.</p>	<p>Attempt to find a workspace in a room at a site which has an organized appearance if possible. Instructing at a table or a few desks pulled together will enable you to spread out materials and instructional aides and also have space to utilize technology effectively.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure proper lighting</li> </ul>	<p>Try to find a location in the home with ample lighting so that instructional materials may be easily viewed. It may be necessary, with the family's permission, to move a lamp to the area in which you are tutoring.</p>	<p>Studying may have to take place later at night due to work schedules, therefore a battery operated lamp, solar powered lamp, or book light may be necessary and helpful.</p>	<p>Most site-based areas should have ample lighting for effective instruction.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask for help</li> </ul>	<p>Other individuals providing instruction in homes may have strategies to share which may help improve the effectiveness of your instruction.</p>	<p>The farm owner, crew leader, or other instructors who have worked on the farm may assist you in finding a good location for instruction, provide suggestions for the best time to instruct, etc.</p>	<p>The other educational instructors working at the same site may provide valuable assistance in sharing materials, sharing strategies, and/or working with you to teach as a team.</p>