

# Gaps in School Material as a Result of the Corona

One of the many ramifications of dealing with the coronavirus crisis is the damage to regular school studies. It's possible that during this time your child has accumulated gaps in school material that can make it difficult to rejoin the class. This is how you can help your child close the gaps.



## Dealing with gaps in school material

The changes in learning habits, the constant back and forth between remote studies and learning in a classroom and the possibility of needing to be isolated, negatively affect children's studies. Naturally, some of them have a hard time following the class's progress these days and might find that they've accumulated quite a gap. Gaps in school material make it hard to go back to studying, and tend to get worse over time when not being treated and dealt with.

### Recognizing the difficulty

To understand if your child is dealing with gaps in the school material, pay attention to their progress in school. Try recognizing early signs of difficulty, and check to see if the problems get better or worse over time. Speak with them about school regularly, and pay attention to their reaction. If they refuse to talk about it, sound unmotivated, or you feel that there's a change in the way they relate to school, they might be having a hard time returning to school. You can keep track of their homework to see how they're coping with the material.

### Speak with the staff

If you're worried that your child is having a hard time in school as a result of gaps accumulated during the corona period, you should initiate a conversation with a teacher who knows your child, like a homeroom teacher. You should let your child know that you'd like to do this, share your worries with them and listen to their opinion. This way you can act together, as a family, to help them.

In the conversation with the school's staff, try estimating the extent of the gaps in the material, and check what the school can do to fill your child's educational needs. Work together with the teacher, ask how your child can make up the material, and how you can help. Ask for the missing material so that your child can make it up at home, and set expectations regarding the necessary time tables.

The school might be able to offer extra classes or other support that will help close the gap. You should talk to the staff to find out what services are available that might help. If necessary, you can get outside help and offer your child a few lessons with a professional tutor or with a family member who can help with catching up.

## What can be done at home

Your support as parents in your child's studies is essential to them being able to return to the school's routine. Here are a few things you can do at home to help your child close the gaps accumulated in school material:

### Establish a supportive environment

Show your child that you appreciate studies and education. Maintain a warm and positive relationship with the school's staff, show interest in their studies and keep track of their homework. Praise your child for their efforts, regardless of their achievements. Encourage them to try and understand what they need when studying, and teach them how to ask for help.

### Help your child get organized

Sit down with your child to break down the task of making up the missing material into smaller tasks that are easier to manage. Help them distribute the studying so that they can complete one task a day. You can use a calendar or a board that will allow your child to plan what tasks they'll be doing each time to move forward with the material, and how they'll combine closing the gap with the regular school work, like homework.

### Create the appropriate atmosphere

Find the time and space that will allow your child the conditions they need for studying at home. Prepare a comfortable, quiet and well-lit space where they can spread out all the equipment they need. Minimize distractions - turn off the TV, ask siblings not to disturb. Offer your child short breaks when they can move around and stretch a little. Stay around to keep an eye out and offer help if necessary. If your child has completed all their tasks, you can reward them with an activity they like.