

At-Home Learning Tips and Tricks

About Me

Hi! My name is Michelle Sadowski and I am an elementary teacher in Ontario. I have taught Special Education for students in JK-Grade 4, and in a general classroom setting for Grades 2, 4 and 5! I have many friends and family members who are struggling with how to teach their children at home during this very challenging time. As a teacher, I have decided to share some of my general tips and tricks for planning, since these are things that most parents would not know how to do off-hand!

Long Range Plan

Use [this template](#) to design a quick and simple long range plan. To make your own, click **File, Make a Copy** and rename the document. You will be able to add, edit and tweak as it suits you!

Tip: Keep the plan simple. Plot in names of units, strands, key assignment ideas.

Tip: Keep units on a 4-6 week schedule if you can. Aim to hit each math strand at least once by Jan/Feb.

Tip: Alternate science and social studies units each month.

Set up a Space in Your Home

If you can, dedicate a space in your home to learning. In this space should be all of the tools and resources you will need for your day (ie. a whiteboard/chalkboard/easel, books, math materials, notebooks, pens/pencils, markers/pencil crayons/crayons, glue, scissors, a proper table or desk and chair.) If possible, avoid bedrooms or couches. Label and organize materials so that everything has a place. At the end of each day, have your child(ren) tidy their space. Use chart paper to create posters to hang on the wall that reflect the concepts the children are learning and act as [anchor charts](#). Hang completed work on the walls to celebrate learning.

Weekly Schedule

Consistency is your friend! Create a daily/weekly schedule to help keep things moving along. Of course, life happens, too! [Here](#) are some sample daily schedules you might want to model yours off of. You can choose to alternate by day, or by week, or stay the same each day. Remember to allow time for breaks, snacks and physical activity! Subjects like Math and Language arts require longer blocks of time, whereas Art, French and Physical Education can alternate days or have shorter blocks.

Tip: Write out your schedule so your child(ren) know what to expect! Stick to your routine as best you can. Visual schedules help younger children know what is coming next. You can find lots of printable ones on Teachers Pay Teachers (link below).

But how do I know what to teach?

The Ontario Government curriculum is available to access for free online. See the links and resources section for a direct link! When you open the document, find the grade level you are teaching and skim through the expectations. Focus on the big ideas.

Tip: No one can be expected to teach every single concept or expectation listed in these documents. Do your best to focus on the OVERALL expectations and use the specific expectations to guide you during lessons and assignments.

Tip: Have an advanced learner? Check out the expectations for the same subject, one year ahead to see where they can be challenged further.

Simplify Where You Can

Use the subjects to your advantage! Cross-curricular activities help you achieve multiple goals at once. Try to find ways that subjects might naturally overlap. For example, do a writing activity about your science unit! Do a reading comprehension task with your social studies content. Combine math and art by doing a hands-on creative piece using math concepts!

Useful Links and Resources

[Ontario Elementary Curriculum Website](#) - search by grade or subject

[Teachers Pay Teachers](#) - paid and free content, developed by teachers!

[Ontario Homeschooling](#) - information about homeschooling (for those fully withdrawing their children from the school system)

[Ontario Learn at Home](#) - for those remaining enrolled in Ontario Public Schools

[Scholastic](#) - Lessons and Ideas

[Crayola](#) - Art Lessons and Resources

[Ontario Science Centre](#) - Lessons and Resources

[Ontario Math Education Resources](#)

Want more help?

Want to get in touch for more help or want a more specific program designed for you? Send me an email at info@michellesadowski.com. I am available to consult with you to help you with your specific needs.

You can find me on instagram at @michellesadowskiconsulting, or online at www.michellesadowski.com.

Best of luck with your At-Home Learning this year!

Sincerely,

Michelle Sadowski

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