



ONLINE LEARNING AT HOME

How a Parent Can Get Their Kid Set For Success

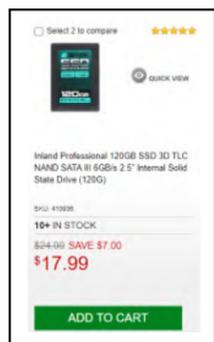
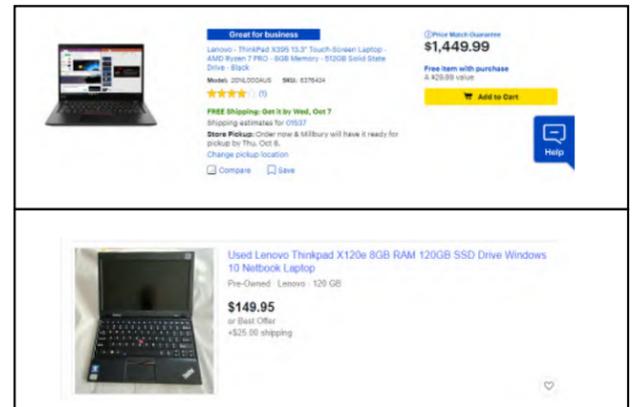
Q:

What is the best laptop or PC I can buy my kid at a Big Box for school?

A:

Actually, that is the last thing you should do. Go on eBay or one of the other resale sites. You can save a **LOT** of money and end up with better tech. Corporations lease laptops in bulk, so there are lots of inexpensive models and parts available.

Lenovo is the most popular among corporate IT departments, and for good reason, they are inexpensive, and there are LOTS of replacements part available on resale sites like eBay and others.



Q:

Why is there no drive in a used laptop?

A:

Not to worry, the corporate IT departments usually remove them for security, but replacing the drive, or keyboard, or any other part, is both easy and inexpensive. If you have ever put together a child's toy, you can do this, don't be intimidated.

You can purchase a laptop drive for short money at sites like **Microcenter.com** The various **SSD** models of drives are a great value.

Q:

But I was told I need a Chromebook and ChromeOS. Do I?

A:

Not at all. Microsoft has made it pretty easy to get **Windows 10** on a computer. If you have an existing Windows 10 machine, just go to rb.gy/xid6dq with a **32G or higher thumbdrive** and it will put the install files onto the drive, which you can boot the laptop from, and easily install Windows.

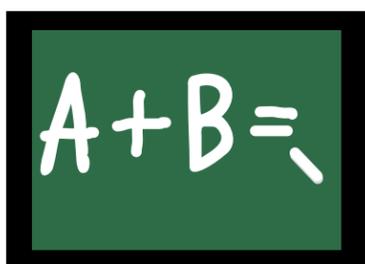


Q:

Don't I have to pay for Windows?

A:

Yes, but there ARE options. Your school may have an educational account with Microsoft to purchase low-cost student licenses. Check with your child's school.



Ask your IT administrator at work, if one is available. Often, corporations set up a take-home arrangement when they negotiate for enterprise licensing. It could be very low cost, or even free.

Of course, once installed, you could simply use it, without paying a thing, if you are willing to put up with constant reminders to register and an **ACTIVATE MICROSOFT** watermark on the display all of the time. But it still works. Thank you Microsoft.

Q:

I thought I needed Chrome OS for my child's classwork?

A:

All you need is the Chrome browser.

There are two primary reasons schools leverage Chromebooks: the cost of the units and Google provides an excellent platform for teachers to use. But that comes at a huge cost - productivity.

The minimalist, web-browser based OS of a Chromebook is only able to do so much, despite what the ads say. No disc drive, prone to lagging, memory issues, and they cannot run many of the applications that run on the Windows OS. There is a scaled-down version of Office, for example, based off the Android version. Otherwise, Chromebook only allows apps from the Play Store.

The Chrome browser is able to access 100% of your child's school work, online classes, and Zoom meetings that the Chromebook can. Plus, you have far more control with your own system on Windows.

All you need is the school-issued accounts for your child (which you should already have) and all the 3rd party apps & links. Collect it together, set up in Chrome browser, and you are off to the races. As for Google Classes, log in as your child with school provided credentials and you will see exactly the same interface as you would on a Chromebook.

MORE >



What about accessories? Do I need a lot of other gear?

A:

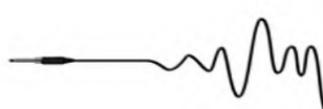
Absolutely invest a few dollars in a quality **mouse & mouse pad**.

Kid-sized hands are not yet sized for an adult mouse, and track pads are hard enough for adults, much less kids. They will likely be using a mouse for most of their adult lives, so it pays to get them used to it now.



Logitech has a wide variety of shapes, sizes, color, right or left-handed models, some with special features.

You should also get a mousepad to go with it. It will protect the furniture, improve the function and lifespan of the mouse. Letting your child pick out their own ensures that they love it, and will use it.



TIP FOR PARENTS

A Y-shaped 3.5mm adapter will allow you to "listen in" on what your child is hearing.

Q:

What about sound? Are earbuds enough?

A:

We all know how distracting it can be working from home. For kids it is even harder. Earbuds won't keep them immersed. Full-backed headphones will block out most of the ambient noise, allowing better concentration.

Many models come with a built-in microphone, so your child does not need to shout to be heard.

Be certain to buy headphones with a 3.5 mm jack, these will work with a lot of different devices, laptops, phones, etc.



5 THINGS TO MAKE THE EXPERIENCE BETTER

1 A SECOND SCREEN

Seriously. Monitors on **eBay** are plentiful. Make sure you get one that has an IPS display in 1080p. Fairly hi-res, smart tech. These are a **LOT** better for your child's eyes over time.

2 A WIRELESS KEYBOARD

Lots to choose from, ensure you buy a "keyboard with system" to ensure the mouse and keyboard accept input from each other. This will help your child type more comfortably in a position they prefer.

3 COMPUTER CHAIR OR STANDING DESK OPTION

Some kids bounce, some get cozy, some need to sit straight, but your child's posture and ergonomic comfort is as important as your own. You know your child best, choose support, comfort, or freedom.

4 A DOCKING STATION

Make sure you purchase a dock that matches the exact make & model of your laptop. Plug components into the dock, your child can roam free with the laptop, then dock it to use the devices.

5 OFFICE 365 FAMILY PACK rb.gy/5nnvbr

Less than \$100/year, up to 6 users, LOTS of storage, templates to make projects easier, share files & photos, location alerts, free tech support, and more. Works perfectly with Google Docs.

IPS stands for In Plane Switching, adjustable liquid crystals providing better color and less eye strain.

A 90 degree angle from the elbow to the wrist when typing avoids strain



WHAT ABOUT MY HOME NETWORK?

Multiple users in the home - Mom & Dad, siblings, smartphones, Siri, Alexa, & Google - all take up bandwidth, sometimes more than the **WAP** (Wireless Access Point) can handle. Your router is a WAP, but you can extend the reach of the signal by hooking additional WAPs into the router by Ethernet cable.

Your router and any other WAPs should be **MU-MIMO**. This stands for Multi User - Multi In, Multi Out. Your router will have more than one antennae, and your WAPs will specify this standard. This will increase access for all users of your network, and multiple data streams will keep bandwidth available. No more dropped zoom meetings or classrom logins.

You can extend your wi-fi signal reach even further with **Mesh Network** gear. Found at **Target, Wal-Mart, Amazon**, etc, these units plug into your home's electrical outlets and use power lines as an antennae to boost wi-fi signal. These units do not effect your electric system or bill in any way.



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We all know how tough things have been, and we were all thrown into the deep end together. Well, we will flourish and thrive the same way - together.

This guide was brought to you by your friends and neighbors in an effort to make your lives a little bit easier. Feel free to share with your other friends who might need it.

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