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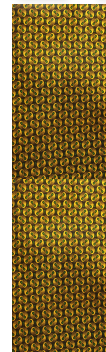
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TAKING EDUCATION TO THE PEOPLE



PARENTAL Support



TAKING EDUCATION TO THE PEOPLE

Introduction

What is the Difference Between Open Learning and Formal Schools? This brochure serves to inform you on how to support a Distance Education learner, and outlines the difference between Open Distance Learning and Formal Education. Parental support in their children's education has major influence on the performance and development of a learner's life. The learner's ability to perform well, achieve and enjoy learning is determined by the level of interest his/her parents showed in their child's education, whilst the child is growing up.

The Table below compares the two made of education.

Open Learning	Formal Education
Uses many different methods and teaching media	Tends to rely on the use of teachers giving lessons or lectures.
Teachers and learners can be separated by distance and time.	Is nearly always face - to - face.
Uses adult learning methods because learners are predominantly adults.	Tends to concentrate on children and adolescents.
Learners can choose when and where they want to study.	Learners must fit into the system in terms of time and place that the teaching happens.
Allows learners to move at their own, individual pace not at the pace of the class.	Requires learners to keep up.
There are no age restrictions	Has strict rules about what age a learner must be in a certain Grade
Often resources based and uses a variety of media.	Rely on the skills of the teachers standing in front of the class.

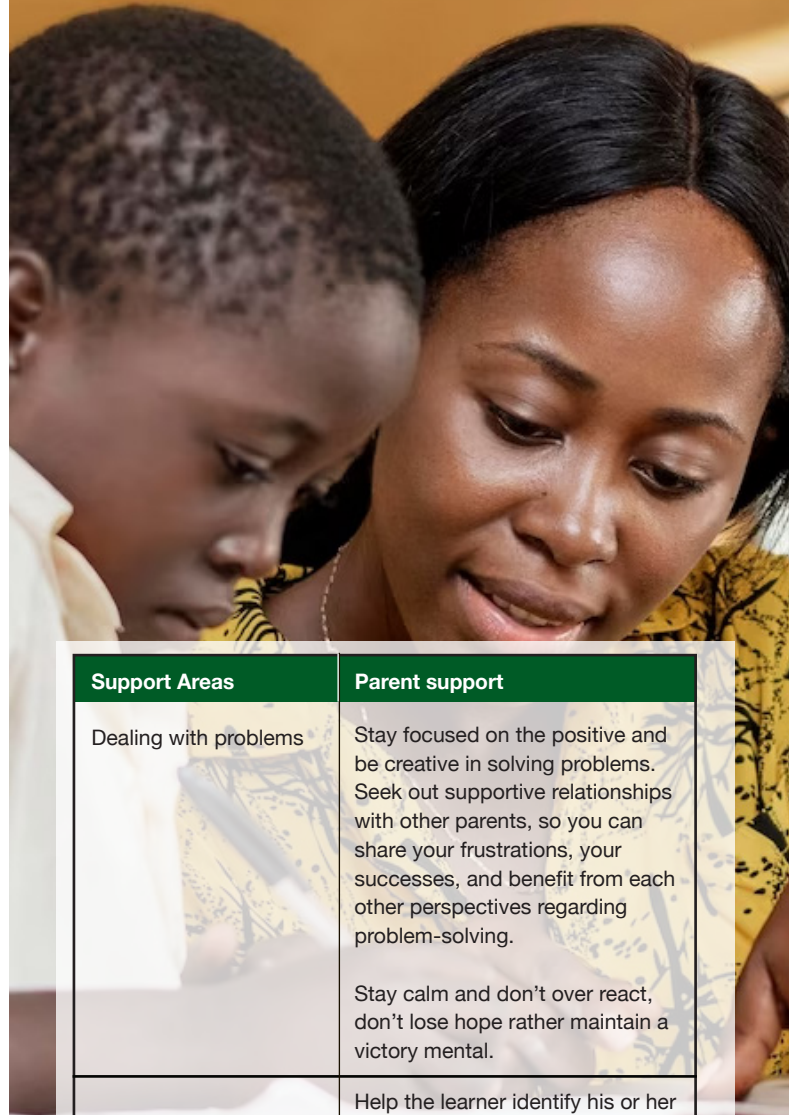
How can you offer support to an Open and Distance Education Learner? **Open and distance learners need support in the following areas:**

- Managing their time
- Study skills
- Setting goals
- Handling exam fear
- Examination administration
- Help with resource materials
- Giving good feedback
- Dealing with work pressure
- Dealing with problems
- Poor low self-esteem

The table below outlines some ideas on how you can offer support to an Open Distance Learner

Support Areas	Parental support
Managing their time	Research different forms of time management methods and present it to the learner. Hold him/her accountable to the time specified on his/her study roster. Promote a predictable environment through routines.
Study skills	Educate yourself about adaptive study methods and skills and work them through with the learner, to identify which one is best suited for him/her.
Setting goals	Encourage the learner to implement an Individual Educational Plan and make sure employment-preparation activities Are also included in the plan.
Handling exam fear	Reassure and affirm the learner that they have your support and that they have what it takes to pass with great marks. Help them study by, for example asking, them questions after they have studied.

Support Areas	Parent support
Examination administration	<p>Ensure you are up-to- date with the learner's college activities, such as examination register dates.</p> <p>Remind them about the examination dates and fees that need to be paid.</p>
Help with resource materials	<p>Make time to go with the learner to find materials they would need for their studies.</p> <p>Explore mentoring relations for the learner through family and friends. Providing easy access to reading and writing materials.</p> <p>Use reading and writing to get things done and solving problems in everyday life.</p> <p>Listen to the learner.</p>
Giving good feedback	<p>Avoid assumptions and create an open door policy within your home, were the learner will be open to communicate his/her fears, challenges and victories.</p> <p>Become aware of the learner's interests and abilities and encourage him/her in them.</p>
Dealing with work pressure	<p>Create an environment where the learner can relax, be her/him, feel cared for, nurtured and appreciated.</p> <p>Have appropriate expectations of the learner's achievements.</p> <p>Learn to be patient with the learner's work progress.</p> <p>Don't compare him/her to other children, it creates insecurities and low esteems, which negatively impacts his/her performance.</p>



Support Areas	Parent support
Dealing with problems	<p>Stay focused on the positive and be creative in solving problems. Seek out supportive relationships with other parents, so you can share your frustrations, your successes, and benefit from each other perspectives regarding problem-solving.</p> <p>Stay calm and don't over react, don't lose hope rather maintain a victory mental.</p>
Poor low self-esteem	<p>Help the learner identify his or her vocational strengths and interests.</p> <p>Speak positive words to him/her. Words of love, worth, value, appreciation and victory.</p>