## Executive Function Skills & Strategies for Support

Executive Function	Skill Definition	Strategy to Support your Learner
Planning	The ability to figure out how to accomplish tasks and goals	<ul> <li>Help your learner create a visual system for tracking homework and events</li> <li>Chunk big tasks or projects into smaller, more manageable parts</li> </ul>
Time Management	The understanding of how much time tasks should take and effectively using time to complete tasks	<ul> <li>Utilize visualize timers to help track time</li> <li>Have the learner estimate how long something will take, time and compare the actual time</li> </ul>
Organization	The ability to keep materials and spaces neat; understanding where each item belongs	<ul> <li>Organize space/supplies together, take a picture of how it should look, and chose a regular weekly time to reorganize</li> <li>Have a home or place for everything</li> </ul>
Working Memory	The ability to hold information that we need to use in our minds	<ul> <li>Verbally summarize learning</li> <li>Write down things that may be easily forgotten- these are things we always think we'll remember!</li> </ul>
Attention	The ability to maintain focus on a task that is non-preferred	<ul> <li>Remove distractions in learning space</li> <li>Allow movement breaks after a period of sustained work</li> <li>Exercise before getting started on non-preferred task</li> </ul>
Task Initiation	The ability to begin a task that you have planned to do in a timely manner	<ul> <li>Prompt your child to tell you the steps they need to take to complete the task</li> <li>Start with the easiest part first</li> </ul>
Flexibility	The ability to revise plans and adapt to unexpected changes	<ul> <li>If possible, prepare your child in advance about plans</li> <li>Practice changing the rules of a favorite game or the ending to a story</li> </ul>
Perseverance	The ability to stick with a task even when it becomes challenging	<ul> <li>Create smalls goals to meet and celebrate along the way</li> <li>Give precise praise for working hard along the way, not just completing the task</li> </ul>
Self Control	The ability to be in control of one's emotional state	<ul> <li>Verbalize feelings</li> <li>Record triggers in a journal</li> <li>Brainstorm ways to manage and prevent triggers</li> </ul>
Metacognition	Self-reflecting or thinking back on one's work or behaviors	<ul> <li>Model thinking out loud about how you complete a task</li> <li>Use mistakes as a chance to discuss what was learned and what could have gone differently</li> </ul>



