Special Education

Collecting Data at Home

How do schools use student data?

IEP teams collect data on academics and essential skills such as social, behavioral, and daily living skills. IEP teams use this data to track progress and identify where students need support. Distance and hybrid learning present opportunities for families and schools to work together to collect data.

How is the data collected?

IEP teams make a formal plan to track progress on IEP goals.
Educators and therapists collect data from student work and observations. A formal IEP progress monitoring plan includes:

- Who collects data
- How data is collected
- When will data be collected

How can families help collect data?

Families already share observations and information about their child as part of the IEP team.

When a child is learning at home, the school team has limited access to the student and might ask families to help collect data. Schools should involve families in planning how and when to collect data. The team should work together to make a plan that considers family schedules and comfort level.

Data collection at home could include:

- Taking a video of your child working
  - For example, a 5-minute observation of your child to look for a specific behavior, such as taking turns in a conversation
- Taking photos of your child's work

- Completing a checklist created by the teacher

How does collecting data at home help your child use learned skills at home, school and in the community?

It can be hard for students to use skills and ideas learned at school in other places or ways. Online and hybrid learning naturally gives students chances to practice skills and ideas in new places and ways. Teams can work together to see where students are stuck and find ways to help them use skills and ideas in new places and ways.

Adapted from: Taub, D., & Posey, A. (2020). Data collection and distance learning (DL #15). TIES Center.