

From Hands-On to Online

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BEFORE YOU READ: Share some experiences you've had with "hands-on" learning and "on-line" learning?

Disadvantages

I struggle more with school now that I have to do all my schoolwork online. I am more of a hands-on learner. Not having my teacher close when I need help makes things a little harder for me. It's easier for me to understand concepts through physical movement.

I struggle the most with math. Trying to learn it online is even harder on me. My math teacher makes sure to always move at a slow pace for me, to make sure I'm understanding everything she is

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saying. If I'm struggling with a question or if we're going over something that I don't remember, she goes over the steps with me again. But some concepts are

still hard for me to visualize, such as graphing, the Pythagorean Theorem, and things like area and perimeter.

Another problem with schools being shut down is that now I don't have a place to go to learn. It's hard getting my school work done at home because I have my daughter here. Her preschool is closed, and she interrupts me a lot throughout the day. She always asks me if she can have a snack or if we can go play outside. She interrupts my conference calls with my teachers because she wants to play instead.

Fortunately, my school provided me with a laptop so I can do my work more easily. It would be a lot harder to do my work if I was on my cell phone. Once I graduate, I get to keep my laptop too, so that's pretty cool! I usually do my school

work on my kitchen table. I ask my daughter to stay upstairs so I can sit downstairs alone and get my work done.

Advantages

There are, however, some advantages to doing remote learning. One of the biggest advantages is I get to spend more time with my daughter. Once I finish school, I will be working full time, so getting to have the extra time with her right now is awesome.

Another advantage is that I can get a feel for what homeschooling is like. I always told myself I was going to homeschool my daughter. But after experiencing homeschooling first hand, I think I will be sending her to public school. Other than these few advantages, it has been pretty hard trying to learn while working from home.

This pandemic has taken a toll on my learning. But I'm still not going to give up. I'm determined to get my diploma so I can give myself and my daughter a better life. As hard as online learning can be, I won't give up. I am, however, looking forward to being able to learn on-site again in the fall.

Teresa Terrazas is a student at Vermont Adult Learning in Windsor, VT. She is a single mom of two children. She moved to Vermont from Colorado three years ago. She is a very intelligent and determined young lady. She doesn't let anything get in the way of pursuing her dreams.

