

# 10 REASONS WHY YOUR CHILD WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES CAN ENGAGE IN EATON ARROWSMITH SCHOOL ONLINE

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Online instruction has been a huge challenge for children with learning difficulties. This challenge has been even more apparent during the recent pandemic, as schools and programs designed for in-person instruction quickly adapted to offer remote learning. Children with learning difficulties were being left behind, as having them engage online proved to be very difficult. One parent, looking at our online offerings, told us during an admissions call that for her child remote learning had been a “disaster!” So, why would Eaton Arrowsmith School Online (EASO) be any different?

Since May 2020, EASO has enrolled over 400 students from around the world into online programs! These students have engaged in a combination of programs, which include our 8-week half-day Summer Cognitive Intensive Program and our year-round 4 Hours A Week Program. The feedback from students and parents



has been overwhelmingly positive!

These students are engaged in their work, mastering challenging cognitive tasks daily and improving neurological functioning. Why is this the case? Why is the Arrowsmith Program online successful for children with learning difficulties whereas other online instructional options have failed or been a real struggle?

Below are the top 10 reasons why the Arrowsmith Program online is engaging students (both children and adults) with learning difficulties and helping improve their cognitive capacities. These improved cognitive capacities provide greater opportunities for academic and social success. And ironically, increase the likelihood that they can now succeed in online academic instruction.

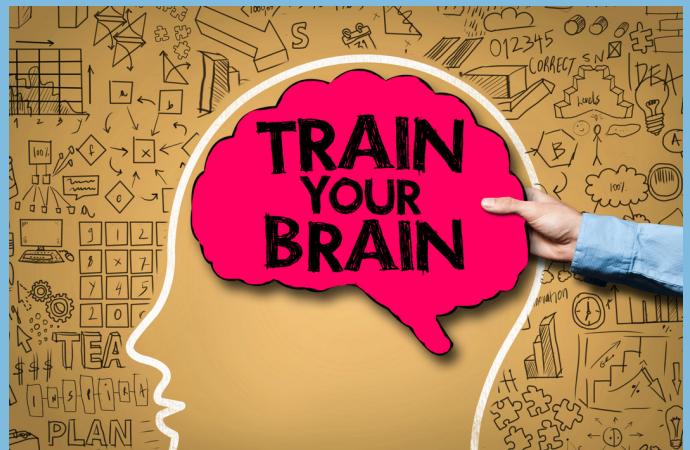
## 1. We understand COVID exposed parents to the struggle their children are having in school.



Many parents knew their children weren't "excelling" in school but trusted that they were part of an environment that was benefiting them and pushing them forward to being well rounded learners and leaders. Then COVID happened, and these parents watched their children in a learning environment for perhaps the first time and saw the struggle they were having to keep up. Not only did they witness the academic difficulties, but often they witnessed attention struggles, content confusion, and unfortunately, the fight, the flight and the freeze. The question that came up in many households was, "Is this happening because they are online? Or is this happening because they are actually struggling more than we thought?" This has led many families to reconsider an option like Eaton Arrowsmith because of the pain they experienced when their children were struggling online both academically and emotionally.

Fortunately, we have seen the opposite with our population as the Arrowsmith Program at Eaton Arrowsmith School Online is designed with the purpose of making school easier by strengthening underlying neurological weaknesses; it just happens to be available online. Parents who thought their children would struggle are actually finding success in our online platform. This online success is translating into global improvements both in school and in their quality of life!

## 2. We know that your child's brain can improve functioning.



There is nothing more important than having a teacher who believes that your child has an amazing brain that can improve its capacity to engage in the world. As educators, we have all overheard teachers discuss specific children with learning difficulties using language like, "She will always struggle with Math," "He will always have a hard time making and keeping friends," "She's always going to have to rely on extra assistance in class." Your child needs teachers who believe your child can learn and grow if given the right tasks. Once your child is in front of that teacher, whether in a school or online, there is no telling what they will achieve!

**3. Arrowsmith Program instructors understand how the brain works and specifically how to engage your child on tasks that are challenging yet attainable.**



Your child will be enrolled with a certified Arrowsmith Program instructor who has been trained on how the brain works, and how specific areas of the brain can be strengthened. Knowledge is powerful, and there is nothing more powerful than understanding that we all have different neurological capacities, that we all need different starting points on tasks given to us, and that we will all progress differently. This gives the instructor understanding, compassion and patience as they work with children with learning difficulties. The child feels this understanding and is more willing to take risks that they may have taken before.



**4. Your child is in a community of students who all want to improve their chances of school success.**



We understand that it can be terrifying to be in an online classroom. From our own life experiences, we can sympathize with the struggle of feeling confused in class. Add in the fact that so many schools are moving towards online learning or requiring online segments of school, and the question becomes “who can support me and understand me through this new wave of education.” Having to rely on parents to reteach information after class can create a hostile environment, but many families see no other option. In an Eaton Arrowsmith School Online classroom all the other children also have a history of learning difficulties. They understand what it is like to not “get it.” There is kindness, understanding and safety that takes the pressure off the feeling of needing to keep up. Each child is working at their own pace on appropriate levels designed to propel them forwards.



## 5. Your child is only given tasks they can achieve independently.



A critical and longstanding neuropsychological concept in effective instruction is a term called the Zone of Proximal Development. Unfortunately, in school, children with learning difficulties are not presented with concepts that are within their Zone of Proximal Development. Instead, they are presented with concepts that are too challenging for them to understand. They cannot learn the information without a huge amount of support, re-teaching, or simplification. In an in-person classroom, this is often provided by the teacher or aide. In online instruction, however, these students are often left wondering what is going on and what to do next and become fearful that there will be no help available to them. At EASO the tasks given to your child are always within their Zone of Proximal Development. They are introduced to a task, they can engage in that task without extensive oversight, and over time they can master that task and move onto more challenging tasks.

## 6. Your child sets achievable goals – this is key to increasing motivation and engagement.



We are asking your child to set goals that they feel are achievable. This creates a level of insight into their own capabilities that they can use to challenge themselves. We might nudge them to a more challenging goal at times, but if they set it, they are motivated to achieve it. This has a positive effect on engagement as there is no greater feeling than achieving one's own goals.



## 7. Your child is given novel tasks to enhance attention or engagement.



There is nothing so demotivating as working on tasks that one can do easily. In special education, children with learning difficulties are not always given challenging tasks. Challenging tasks are deemed unkind or unnecessary because the child has learning problems. Many feel that this means the child should not have to face any difficulty. This is not the best approach! Instead, a child needs novel tasks that they can do on their own within their Zone of Proximal Development, as noted above. Novel tasks are key to brain change. The brain needs novelty to keep focused or engaged. The Arrowsmith Program is wonderful at providing this type of task and appropriately challenges the brain on a minute-by-minute basis.

## 8. Your child is rewarded for their accomplishments.



After having achieved mastery on an Arrowsmith Program task, there is nothing like seeing your computer screen light up with congratulatory comments, the online classroom cheering you on for your success, and having your parents receive an email from the Arrowsmith Program instructor about your accomplishment. Even better for your child is knowing that this achievement was due to their effort, and not through the “watering down” of the task or over-coaching of the teacher. They earned it, all on their own. Our students experience pride in their work and a feeling of being capable of independent achievement that many have not experienced before.

## 9. Your child is given constant feedback.

Feedback in our lives is crucial. This is one reason your child might have found online instruction so problematic at home. It may have been hard to get feedback from the teacher as classes might be too large, or your child may have struggled or been embarrassed to ask for help. At EASO the classes are kept small, and teachers are constantly monitoring their students' engagement with tablets connected by the Cloud to their program. An instructor can tell quickly if engagement is down for a specific child and request a private meeting with the child to reduce any embarrassment or concern the child might have. As well, the child's own computer will give them feedback on their performance on the Arrowsmith Program. Thus, they can self-monitor their own engagement, performance and how close they might be to mastering a level and moving to a novel challenge.

## **10. Not only will your child receive constant feedback from their instructor, but your family will be paired with an Advisor who will take you through the program from start to finish.**

Your family's schedule will often change throughout the year because of extracurricular activities, school events, tutors, and therapies. We are happy to accommodate with a variety of first-come-first-serve class times, but this can often mean changing teachers throughout the year. Thankfully, each family will be assigned to an Advisor who will be with you regardless of your class time. Your Advisor will review your child's assessment results and create a plan with you that include big picture goals and action plans. You will still work with your child's teacher on all day-to-day class related needs but will have an Advisor to help provide higher level information, as well as a monthly report to ensure your child is moving forward with all the data and communication you need to understand the evolution of your child's time with us.

As noted above, Eaton Arrowsmith School Online is unique when compared to other online offerings your child might have already experienced. Additionally, consider why your child is working with us. Each day that they log in online they are improving their cognitive capacities! They are working to improve memory, reasoning, processing speed and attention. The Arrowsmith Program has been available for 40 years and has conducted independent research for over 20 years. The evidence is clear – the Arrowsmith Program is improving the cognitive and achievement outcomes of children and adults who engage in it. Now it is available online! Don't miss out.

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## **Connect with us to learn more.**



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