Mastering Online Searches:
Tips & Tricks

Introduction

Are you a parent or caregiver seeking support and resources for your child? Discover how to effectively search online for educational, therapeutic, and community resources. This guide will provide tips, helping you navigate the internet to find the best tools and services for your family.

Using Internet Browsers and Maps

- **Browser Choice:** The Google search engine tends to give the most comprehensive search results. If you are looking for disability-specific resources, websites such as [DRM Web Watcher](#), provide disability resources on a broader scale.

- **Google Maps**: To identify resources within your local community, "Places" usually shows up at the top of the results page. By clicking on "More places," you can see a visual map to ensure services are located nearby. This is especially useful if you live in an area with a common name that is found in multiple states.

- **Business Listings**: Below the map, nearby business listings are displayed. Some websites may not list a phone number or exact address, but more information may be found here in the Google Maps section.

- **Open Links in New Tabs**: When using a laptop or computer, right-clicking on a link allows you to open the website in a new tab. Multiple tabs allow you to check a new resource without losing your original search results page. Once you close the new tab, it will return you to the results page, saving you time. Alternatively, most browsers have a plus button (+) to open a new tab.

Finding Specialized Resources

- Use specific keywords and include a specific location when searching for a resource.
- Participate in forums and social media groups dedicated to parents of children with disabilities.
- Check the directories of local community centers and organizations to find regional disability services.
- For identifying trusted resources, choose reputable websites that end in .gov, .edu, and .org.

Searching With Keywords

Being specific in your choice of words can yield the best results. Search operators are useful tools because they allow you to command search engines, refining your results. Below are some search operators that can help.

Quotation Marks: Putting quotation marks (") around terms will ensure that a specific word or phrase is listed on a webpage.

> 🔍   "virtual" occupational therapist

Hyphen: Using a hyphen can exclude terms that are not relevant to your search, removing those webpages from the list of search results.

> 🔍   Howard County neurologist -jobs

Use Specific Keywords: Using specific keywords is important for narrowing down the search results.

> 🔍   child care "cerebral palsy" Baltimore City

Organizational Skills

- **Bookmark Frequently Used Pages:** Save time by bookmarking essential resources, such as therapy centers, school portals, or community organization pages.

- **Utilize Alerts and Notifications:** Use Google Alerts to stay updated on specific topics like "disability services in [location]" or "educational programs for disabilities."

- **Cross-Check Resource Credibility:** Verify the reliability of websites through reviews or by checking if they are referenced by reputable organizations. Look for partnerships with known institutions to ensure credibility.

- **Online Calendars**: Google Calendar or similar apps can help you keep track of appointments, webinars, or deadlines related to your child's needs.

Additional Support

For more information about the Resource Finder program or to request specific resources in your community, scan the QR code or visit:
KennedyKrieger.org/ResourceFinder

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