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## **Teaching to Independence**

Using visuals to teach to independence

Most of these students have a long history of needing adult assistance, especially with academics. The result is a student over reliant on adult support to start, stay with, much less complete any assignment independently.

If you tell the child to complete it by himself and remind him of this when he asks for help, by definition, you are prompting him to work independently.

Using a visual – in this case a square in the upper right corner, and taking the time to teach to the meaning of the square and practice successful independent work results in a student's increased ability to distinguish when he is expected to get started and complete an assignment independently.

- Provide an assignment that is one year below current level
- Assignment must be in a familiar format.
- Assignment should be very short, as few as 1-2 responses.
- Student is to complete the assignment within a specified period
- Feedback is for completing the assignment “all by yourself Independently” – regardless of accuracy.
- Sign/Initial the Box.