

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING AND ATTENTION PROBLEMS

Why Use Accommodations

Students with learning and attention issues may need to learn material differently than others their age. Accommodations are designed to give them ways to learn and demonstrate knowledge of the same material as other students their age.

For example, if your student has trouble with writing, you might let him give answers to a test verbally. This doesn't change the test the student is taking. It changes the way he demonstrates what he knows.

Accommodations don't lower the expectations for what students learn. They don't change what they are taught or tested on. Instead, they support the ability to learn well in the classroom and show knowledge on tests by removing obstacles.

Types of Accommodations

Accommodations can involve changes to various things related to learning. Here are four categories of accommodations.

- **Presentation:** A change in the way instructions and information are presented. Example: Letting a student listen to audiobooks instead of reading a text.
- **Response:** A change in the way a student completes assignments or tests. Example: Allowing them to give spoken answers instead of written ones.
- **Setting:** A change in the environment where a student works. Example: Allowing them to take a test in a separate room with fewer distractions, or in smaller group.
- **Timing and scheduling:** A change to how much time a student has to complete a task, or being allowed to take breaks. Example: Providing extra time on tests for a student.

Different accommodations are helpful for different students. It depends what they're struggling with.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Presentation accommodations allow a student to:

- Listen to audio recordings instead of reading text
- Learn content from audiobooks, movies, videos and digital media instead of reading print versions
- Work with fewer items per page or line and/or materials in a larger print size
- Have a designated reader
- Hear instructions orally
- Record a lesson, instead of taking notes
- Have another student share class notes with him
- Be given an outline of a lesson
- Use visual presentations of verbal material, such as word webs and visual organizers
- Be given a written list of instructions

Response accommodations allow a student to:

- Give responses in a form (oral or written) that's easier for him
- Dictate answers to a scribe
- Capture responses on an audio recorder
- Use a spelling dictionary or electronic spell-checker
- Use a computer to type notes or give responses in class

Setting accommodations allow a student to:

- Work or take a test in a different setting, such as a quiet room with few distractions
- Sit where he learns best (for example, near the teacher)
- Use special lighting or acoustics
- Take a test in small group setting
- Use sensory tools such as an exercise band that can be looped around a chair's legs (so fidgety kids can kick it and quietly get their energy out)

Timing accommodations allow a student to:

- Take more time to complete a task or a test

- Have extra time to process oral information and directions
- Take frequent breaks, such as after completing a task

Scheduling accommodations allow a student to:

- Take more time to complete a project
- Take a test in several timed sessions or over several days
- Take sections of a test in a different order
- Take a test at a specific time of day

Organization skills accommodations allow a student to:

- Use an alarm to help with time management
- Mark texts with a highlighter
- Have help coordinating assignments in a book or planner
- Receive study skills instruction

MODIFICATIONS

Assignment modifications allow a student to:

- Complete different homework problems than peers
- Write different content requirements and shorter papers
- Answer different test questions
- Create alternate projects or assignments

Curriculum modifications allow a student to:

- Learn different material (such as continuing to work on multiplication while classmates move on to fractions)
- Get graded or assessed using a different standard than the one for classmates
- Be excused from particular projects

Students receiving modifications should have that noted on their report card and transcripts.