READ Learning
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LLC™
Redefining Education And Dyslexia

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Introduction to Accommodations

Academic accommodations make learning accessible to students who have learning and attention struggles. You can individualize student instruction through the use of accommodations and still maintain fair treatment and high standards of performance. With accommodations children are still expected to learn the same material, but have a different way of getting, using, or presenting the information. Accommodations are often necessary for students with learning disabilities or health impairments. They should be used at school and at home.

"Fair doesn't mean giving every child the same thing. It means giving every child what they need." Rick Lavoie

If you have a child who struggles in certain areas, use the reference sheet below to help you develop an accommodation plan. Start by teaching your child that everyone learns differently because no two people are exactly the same. This can be framed as part of what makes us unique. Teach them that with every learning difference there are also strengths. How can they use their strengths to showcase their learning? Get them excited about trying new "tricks" to make learning more interesting and less frustrating. Then try a few different accommodations, see how they work, ask your child what he/she thinks of them, and decide if it's a good fit. Help your children go from frustration to success armed with the knowledge and understanding that fair does not mean equal.

Classroom Accommodations Reference Sheet

Reading & Presenting

1. Provide audio versions of textbooks and chapter books through Learning Ally, Audible, Play-Away or other format.

2. Have high-low books available for independent reading.

3. Use computer, iPad, or other technology so papers and web information can be read out-loud to the student.

4. Allow student to pre-rehearse oral reading before giving a presentation or doing reader's theatre.

5. Use a voice recorder to work on fluency.

6. Use a voice recorder to pre-record a speech to play to the audience.

7. Provide cover sheets or EZ readers to track text while reading.

8. Give hands on options (diorama, model, movie, etc) for presenting.

Writing

1. Use a dictation program instead of writing everything by hand. There are built in systems on Google Chrome and free apps that can be used.

2. Enlarge writing space.

3. Provide lines.

4. Give students an alphabet strip for visual reference.

5. Use highlighters to define writing space

6. Provide graphic organizers.

7. Scribe for lengthy assignments or keyboard.
8. Copy notes from paper or book instead of the board. Near point copying is easier.

9. Provide a copy of notes.

10. Assist student with the writing process – provide a checklist.

11. Provide guided outlines or writing frames so students can fill in the main points.

12. Allow print or cursive.

13. Give hands on options for writing projects (Power Point presentations, diagrams, posters, flyers, etc).

14. Always give examples of what it expected and what is not expected. Allow students to keep these examples.

15. Give students a simple rubric so they can check their work quality.

16. Provide sentence starters or framed paragraphs.

17. Use graphic organizers to aid the writing process.

18. Directly teach the writing process and have it visible for students to reference.

19. Provide a word bank with important vocabulary.

20. Assist student with editing - especially for organization, punctuation and spelling.

Math
1. Provide grid paper for math problems.

2. Flip lined paper on its side to line up math problems in columns.

3. Use a multiplication chart.

4. Use a 100's chart.

5. Use a number line.

6. Use manipulatives whenever possible – base ten blocks, fraction cubes, etc.

7. Provide memory triggers to aid retention of math facts and order of operations.

8. Pair words with visuals. Show the student instead of telling the student.

9. Allow a calculator to check work.

10. Make sure students have space to show their work. Enlarge the page or add a blank work page.

11. Get away from worksheets and try project based learning to be more hands-on.

12. Break word problems into small pieces.

13. Provide a glossary for math terms.

14. Provide video lessons so students can watch the instruction a second or third time.

15. Choose one strategy and stick with it – don't overwhelm students with too many strategies.

Setting
1. Provide a consistent location to work with no distractions in the workspace.

2. Minimize noise distractions (background TV, conversations, etc.)

3. Fidgets can enhance focus – choose a fidget that can be used to help the student focus (exercise band on chair legs, stress ball, tangle toy, koosh ball or anything that is not a distraction but a focusing fidget).

Time
1. Allow extra time or set time limits for projects.

2. Define time by using a visual timer.

3. Use an alarm.

4. Create an AM schedule and a PM schedule that students can look at and check off.

5. Create daily goals together.

6. Allow for longer processing time (think time).

7. Give brain breaks or movement breaks.

8. Don't give timed tests. Focus on quality of work not quantity resulting from rote memory.

Testing & Questions

1. Ask two questions instead of open-ended questions. This helps focus student thoughts.

2. Create memory triggers – visual images to trigger learning.

3. Allow the use of reference sheets to be used while working and testing.

4. Limit the amount of choices in multiple choice and matching questions.

5. Shorten the number of questions – quality over quantity.

6. Use a cover sheet to reduce visual stimuli.

7. Use study guides.

8. Read tests aloud.

9. Allow for verbal answers.

10. Don't downgrade for poor spelling if it's not a spelling test – focus on content.

11. Test during an optimal time of the day.

12. Break tests into chunks to be completed at different times.

13. Give movement breaks.

Lighting

1. Use neutral colored paper instead of bright white.

2. Use colored light filters or colored overlays.

3. Fluorescent lights can cause headaches and glare on white paper. Use natural light.

Organization

1. Mark important points with a highlighter

2. Use post-it notes

3. Use a color-coded folder system.

4. Use a daily planner and monthly calendar

5. Choose a specific time every day to organize materials.

6. Create a step-by-step list detailing how to organize materials daily.