Spring 2024

Special Needs

Teaching Tips & Accommodations

## What are accommodations?

## The term accommodation is commonly used to describe an alteration to the environment, the way a task is presented, or any equipment that allows an individual with a disability to access an assignment or task as any other person. Accommodations do not alter the content of an assignment, give unfair advantage, or change the difficulty level of what is being measured. On the contrary, it makes it possible for students to show what they know without being impeded by their disability. Accommodations are typically divided into categories. Some common categories include input (presentation), output (student response), timing, setting, scheduling, and other.

## Input/Presentation of Subject Matter:

* [Provide](https://www.performancehealth.com/articles/fun-gross-motor-activities-for-kids-from-a-to-z) information on audio tape
* Provide large print
* Present instructions orally
* Provide written study notes for students
* Utilize manipulatives
* Reduce number of items per page or line
* Give extra cues of prompts

## Output/Student Response:

* [Allow](https://www.performancehealth.com/articles/fun-gross-motor-activities-for-kids-from-a-to-z) for verbal responses or dictation to a scribe
* Allow the use of a tape recorder to capture responses
* Permit answers to be recorded directly into test booklet
* Permit computer responses

## Timing:

* [Allow](https://www.performancehealth.com/articles/fun-gross-motor-activities-for-kids-from-a-to-z) frequent breaks
* Allow more time
* Vary activity often
* Avoid timed/pressured situations
* Extend alloted time for a test

## Setting:

* [Provide](https://www.performancehealth.com/articles/fun-gross-motor-activities-for-kids-from-a-to-z) preferential seating
* Provide special lighting or acoustics
* Alter physical room arrangement
* Define areas of a room concretely with furniture
* Reduce/minimize distractions (visual, spatial, auditory, movement)
* Teach positive rules for use of space)
* Administer a test in small group setting
* Administer a test in provate room or alternative test site

## Scheduling:

* Administer a test in private room or alternative test site
* Administer a test in several timed sessions or over several days
* Allow subtests to be taken in different order
* Administer a test at a specific time of the day

## Other:

* Provide special test preparation
* Provide any reasonable accommodation that a student needs that does not fit under the existing
* Avoid penalizing for spelling errors or poor penmanship
* Check often for understanding
* Have student repeat instructions
* Set up daily/weekly assignment sheets to be checked by adult
* Allow student to revise work based on teacher feedback before giving final grade

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