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Understood

Common Modifications and Accommodations

By Erich Strom

There are many ways teachers can help children with learning and attention issues succeed in school. Here are some common accommodations and modifications to discuss with the school as possible options for your child.

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 word processor to type notes or give responses in class
- Use a calculator or table of "math facts"

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

Assignment modifications allow a student to:

- Complete fewer or different homework problems than peers
- Write shorter papers
- Answer fewer or 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

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