



What are Accommodations?

Accommodations use tools, materials, technology, visual aids, and timing to help the student access the curriculum to learn the same content as his or her peers.

- Accommodations are changes that remove barriers to learning.
- Accommodations change *how* kids learn, not *what* they learn.

Accommodations are changes that remove barriers and provide the student with equal access to learning. Accommodations don't change *what* the student is learning. Rather, they change *how* the student is learning.

Types of Accommodations

Accommodations work best when they target a specific barrier or challenge. For instance, for the student who can't sit still to do math, an accommodation may be frequent breaks. For the student who struggles to write out answers on tests, an accommodation may be to have the student give answers orally. The accommodation matches the need.

Here are four categories of accommodations for different needs.

- **Presentation:** A change in the way information is presented. Example: Letting a student with reading challenges listen to audiobooks instead of reading printed text.
- **Response:** A change in the way a student completes assignments or tests. Example: Providing a keyboard to a student who struggles with handwriting when he/she is writing an essay.
- **Setting:** A change in the environment where a student learns. Example: Allowing a student with attention and focus challenges to take a test in a separate room with fewer distractions.
- **Timing and scheduling:** Change to the time a student has for a task. Example: Providing extra time on work for a student who has slow processing speed.

Presentation accommodations (changes the way information is presented)

- 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
- Work with text in a larger print size
- Have a "designated reader"—someone who reads test questions aloud to students

- Hear instructions spoken aloud
- Record a lesson, instead of taking notes
- Get class notes from another student
- See an outline of a lesson
- Use visual presentations of verbal material, such as a graphic organizer
- Get a written list of instructions

Response accommodations (changes the way student complete assignments or tests)

- Give responses in a form (spoken or written) that's easier for him/her
- Dictate answers to a scribe who writes or types
- Capture responses on an audio recorder
- Use a spelling dictionary or digital spell-checker
- Use a word processor to type notes or give answers in class
- Use a calculator or table of "math facts"

Setting accommodations

- Work or take a test in a different setting, such as a quiet room with few distractions
- Sit where they learn best
- Use special lighting or acoustics
- 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

- Take more time to complete a task or a test
- Have extra time to process spoken information and directions
- Take frequent breaks, such as after completing a worksheet

Scheduling accommodations

- Complete a task in several timed sessions or over several days
- Complete sections of a task in a different order
- Complete a task at a specific time of day

Organization skills accommodations

- Use an alarm to help with time management
- Mark texts with a highlighter
- Use a planner or organizer to help coordinate assignments
- Receive study skills instruction

Additional ideas to support learning:

- Give a word bank for fill in the blank or when writing an essay
- Allow students to type or orally report their responses
- Give a specific list for steps to complete a task
- Provide concept cards with an assignment
- Allow the student to use their book or notes
- Provide specific examples
- Highlight tricky or key words in questions
- Read the information to the student
- Allow student to work in quieter setting
- Allow calculators