

ADAPT*

Accommodations Help Students with Attention Deficit Disorders

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Children and youth with attention deficit disorder (ADD) often have serious problems in school. Inattention, impulsiveness, hyperactivity, disorganization, and other difficulties can lead to unfinished assignments, careless errors, and behavior which is disruptive to one's self and others. Through the implementation of relatively simple and straightforward accommodations to the classroom environment or teaching style, teachers can adapt to the strengths and weaknesses of students with ADD. Small changes in how a teacher approaches the student with ADD or in what the teacher expects can turn a losing year into a winning one for the child.

Examples of accommodations which teachers can make to adapt to the needs of students with ADD are grouped below according to areas of difficulty.



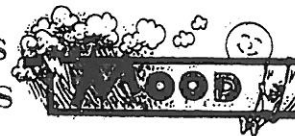
- seat student in quiet area
- seat student near good role model
- seat student near "study buddy"
- increase distance between desks
- allow extra time to complete assigned work
- shorten assignments or work periods to coincide with span of attention; use timer
- break long assignments into smaller parts so student can see end to work
- assist student in setting short-term goals
- give assignments one at a time to avoid work overload
- require fewer correct responses for grade
- reduce amount of homework
- instruct student in self-monitoring using cueing
- pair written instructions with oral instructions
- provide peer assistance in notetaking
- give clear, concise instructions
- seek to involve student in lesson presentation
- cue student to stay on task, i.e. private signal



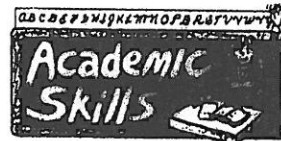
- ignore minor, inappropriate behavior
- increase immediacy of rewards and consequences
- use time-out procedure for misbehavior
- supervise closely during transition times
- use "prudent" reprimands for misbehavior (i.e. avoid lecturing or criticism)
- attend to positive behavior with compliments, etc.
- acknowledge positive behavior of nearby student
- seat student near good role model or near teacher
- set up behavior contract
- instruct student in self-monitoring of behavior, i.e. hand raising, calling out
- call on only when hand is raised in appropriate manner
- praise student when hand raised to answer question



- allow student to stand at times while working
- provide opportunity for "seat breaks" i.e. run errands, etc.
- provide short break between assignments
- supervise closely during transition times
- remind student to check over work product if performance is rushed and careless
- give extra time to complete tasks (especially for students with slow motor tempo)



- provide reassurance and encouragement
- frequently compliment positive behavior and work product
- speak softly in non-threatening manner if student shows nervousness
- review instructions when giving new assignments to make sure student comprehends directions
- look for opportunities for student to display leadership role in class
- conference frequently with parents to learn about student's interests and achievements outside of school
- send positive notes home
- make time to talk alone with student
- encourage social interactions with classmates if student is withdrawn or excessively shy
- reinforce frequently when signs of frustration are noticed
- look for signs of stress build up and provide encouragement or reduced work load to alleviate pressure and avoid temper outburst
- spend more time talking to students who seem pent up or display anger easily
- provide brief training in anger control: encourage student to walk away; use calming strategies; tell nearby adult if getting angry



- if reading is weak: provide additional reading time; use "previewing" strategies; select text with less on a page; shorten amount of required reading; avoid oral reading
- if oral expression is weak: accept all oral responses; substitute display for oral report; encourage student to tell about new ideas or experiences; pick topics easy for student to talk about
- if written language is weak: accept non-written forms for reports (i.e. displays, oral, projects); accept use of typewriter, word processor, tape recorder; do not assign large quantity of written work; test with multiple choice or fill-in questions
- if math is weak: allow use of calculator; use graph paper to space numbers; provide additional math time; provide immediate correctness feedback and instruction via modeling of the correct computational procedure



- ask for parental help in encouraging organization
- provide organization rules
- encourage student to have notebook with dividers and folders for work
- provide student with homework assignment book
- supervise writing down of homework assignments
- send daily/weekly progress reports home
- regularly check desk and notebook for neatness, encourage neatness rather than penalize sloppiness
- allow student to have extra set of books at home
- give assignments one at a time
- assist student in setting short-term goals
- do not penalize for poor handwriting if visual-motor deficits are present
- encourage learning of keyboarding skills
- allow student to tape record assignments or homework



- praise compliant behavior
- provide immediate feedback
- ignore minor misbehavior
- use teacher attention to reinforce positive behavior
- use "prudent" reprimands for misbehavior (i.e. avoid lecturing or criticism)
- acknowledge positive behavior of nearby student
- supervise student closely during transition times
- seat student near teacher
- set up behavior contract
- implement classroom behavior management system
- instruct student in self-monitoring of behavior



- praise appropriate behavior
- monitor social interactions
- set up social behavior goals with student and implement a reward program
- prompt appropriate social behavior either verbally or with private signal
- encourage cooperative learning tasks with other students
- provide small group social skills training
- praise student frequently
- assign special responsibilities to student in presence of peer group so others observe student in a positive light

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Accommodations / Modifications

Identify the strategies and supplemental aids necessary to let _____
participate successfully with students not receiving special education services.

Pacing

- _____ Adjust deadlines
- _____ Vary activity often
- _____ Omit assignments requiring timed copying
- _____ Adjust amount of work required to meet requirements
- _____ Provide home set of text / material for preview / review
- _____ Other: _____

Environment

- _____ Plan seating strategically
 - _____ Bus
 - _____ Lunchroom
 - _____ Classroom
 - _____ Auditorium
- _____ Alter physical room arrangement
- _____ Define areas concretely
- _____ Reduce distractions
 - _____ Visual
 - _____ Spatial
 - _____ Auditory
 - _____ Movement
- _____ Teach positive rules for use of space
- _____ Other: _____

Assignments

- _____ Give directions in small distinct steps (written, picture & verbal)
- _____ Provide print copy for oral directions
- _____ Reduce difficulty level
- _____ Shorten assignments
- _____ Reduce paper and pencil tasks
- _____ Read or tape record directions
- _____ Give extra cues or prompts
- _____ Allow student to record or type assignment
- _____ Adapt worksheets, packets

Assignments (continued)

- _____ Provide alternate assignment / strategy when demands of class conflict with student capabilities
- _____ Limit penalizing for errors that reflect the student's disability
- _____ Provide samples of what an "A" assignment looks like
- _____ Other: _____

Presentation of Subject Matter

- _____ Teach to student's learning style
 - ___ Visual ___ Auditory
 - ___ Tactile ___ Experiential
- _____ Use individual / small group instruction
- _____ Tape lectures / discussion for replay
- _____ Provide notes
- _____ Apply academic skills to practical situations
- _____ Present demonstrations (model)
- _____ Utilize manipulatives
- _____ Highlight critical information
- _____ Pre-teach vocabulary
- _____ Make / Use vocabulary files
- _____ Reduce language level or reading level of assignment
- _____ Use total communication / interpreter
- _____ Use facilitated communication
- _____ Provide visual examples
- _____ Other: _____

Motivation and Reinforcement

- _____ Verbal
- _____ Nonverbal
- _____ Positive reinforcement
- _____ Behavior management
- _____ Planned motivating sequences of activities
- _____ Tap strengths / interests
- _____ Offer choices
- _____ Other: _____

Materials

- ☐ Arrangement of material on page
- ☐ Note-taking assistance/carbonless or Xerox copy of lecture notes
- ☐ Use supplementary materials
- ☐ Taped text and/or other class materials
- ☐ Typed copy of teacher material
- ☐ Special equipment
 - ☐ Electric typewriter
 - ☐ Calculator
 - ☐ Computer
 - ☐ Video record
 - ☐ Augmentative communication device
 - ☐ electronic
 - ☐ homemade
 - ☐ Telephone adaptations
 - ☐ Tape recorder
 - ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Self Management/Follow Through

- ☐ Follow visual daily schedule
- ☐ Use calendars
- ☐ Check often for understanding / review
- ☐ Request parent reinforcement
- ☐ Have student repeat directions
- ☐ Teach study skills
- ☐ Use study sheets to organize material
- ☐ Design / Write / Use long-term assignment time lines
- ☐ Review and practice in real situations
- ☐ Plan for generalization
- ☐ Teach skill in several settings
- ☐ Other: _____

Testing Adaptations

- ☐ Oral responses
- ☐ Taped
- ☐ Read test to student
- ☐ Preview of test language
- ☐ Application in real setting
- ☐ Administered by resource person
- ☐ Extended time frame
- ☐ Short answer
- ☐ Multiple choice
- ☐ Modified format
- ☐ Shortened questions
- ☐ Other: _____

Social Interaction Supports

- ☐ Peer advocacy
- ☐ Greetings
- ☐ Sharing
- ☐ Peer tutoring
- ☐ Structured activities to create opportunities for social interaction
- ☐ Focus on social process rather than activity / end product
- ☐ Structured, shared experiences in school, extracurricular
- ☐ Partial participation
- ☐ Cooperative learning groups
- ☐ Use of multiple / rotating peers
- ☐ Teach friendship skills / sharing / negotiations
- ☐ Teach social communication skills
- ☐ Conversational turn taking
- ☐ Negotiation
- ☐ Other: _____