Glossary of Important Terms

Section 1 Instructional Area and Task

Aided Hearing

This refers to the use of external devices or aids, such as hearing aids or cochlear implants, to enhance a person's ability to hear and understand sounds. These devices amplify sound for individuals with hearing impairments.

Auditory (Vision)

For vision, auditory refers to utilizing sound-based information as a supplementary means to convey information or facilitate understanding. Auditory methods include spoken descriptions, audio recordings, or assistive technology like screen readers to provide access to educational materials and help students with low vision grasp content through their sense of hearing.

Composition

The process of creating a written piece of work that conveys a message, expresses thoughts, shares information, or tells a story. It involves using language, grammar, and structure to communicate effectively and engage the reader.

Expressive Language

Expressive language refers to the ability to convey thoughts, emotions, and ideas through spoken or written communication. It involves using words, sentences, and gestures to express oneself effectively.

Fine Motor Manipulation

The intricate use of small muscles, particularly those in the hands and fingers, to manipulate objects in a coordinated manner.

Fine Motor Writing

The ability to use the fingers and hand to physically write, draw, and/or color in a coordinated manner.

Information Management

Planning how to find, store, and use information to think strategically.

Materials Management

The skill of strategically organizing, acquiring, using, and distributing physical resources, tools, and assets to efficiently accomplish tasks and goals.

Math Expressions/Writing

The representation of mathematical concepts using symbols, numbers, and mathematical notation. It includes the ability to write equations and formulas to express mathematical relationships.

Math Organization

Math organization refers to the structured arrangement of mathematical concepts, processes, and information. It involves categorizing, sequencing, and arranging mathematical content in a logical manner when solving problems.

Media

Specialized formats and tools to facilitate written communication and expression for individuals with limited or no vision. This includes braille, large print, accessible electronic devices, screen readers that convert written content into auditory or tactile formats.

Physical Interaction

The process of engaging with digital devices using various input methods. The goal is to facilitate effective communication between users and computers by translating physical actions into digital commands.

Receptive Language

The ability to understand and interpret spoken or written language. It involves processing and comprehending the information conveyed by others.

Regulation/Reactivity

The ability to manage and appropriately respond to sensory input from the environment to maintain an optimal level of arousal and attention.

Self Management

The ability to regulate and control one's behavior, emotions, and actions in a purposeful and adaptive manner to achieve goals, make decisions, and navigate various situations.

Spatial

The visual arrangement and structure of written content on the page.

Syntax

The understanding and construction of the organization of words, sentences, paragraphs, and overall composition of written or spoken language.

Sensory Discrimination

This skill refers to sensory needs causing clumsiness, deficits in spatial orientation, and difficulties when identifying letters and numbers.

Sensory-motor planning/organization

The ability to plan and perform the necessary movements to keep up with physical and organizational tasks.

Sensory Regulation

The ability to select and process sensory information to plan and perform appropriate behaviors during functional tasks.

Tactile

Sensory experiences and information that are accessible through the sense of touch. Tactile learning involves textured or raised lines, surface, or marking, tactile graphics, braille and other physical attributes to convey information and facilitate understanding of concepts, objects, or surroundings.

Time Management

The skill of effectively planning, organizing, and allocating time to tasks and activities in order to achieve goals and priorities while balancing various responsibilities.

Unaided Hearing

An individual's natural ability to hear and perceive sounds without the use of external hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other amplification devices. It pertains to the auditory sense functioning without any additional technological assistance to enhance or restore hearing ability.

Section 2 Accommodations, Modifications, and Strategies

Alternative Assignment

A different task or project provided to a student as an accommodation, tailored to their needs and abilities.

Answers Recorded

Allowing a student to provide responses orally while an aide writes them down on their behalf.

Alter Physical Room Environment

Making changes to the classroom environment to accommodate physical needs, such as providing ergonomic furniture or wheelchair accessibility.

Breaks

Scheduled pauses during tasks or activities to provide students with rest and sensory regulation opportunities.

Communication Assistant/Task Description

A support tool or clear instructions provided to help students understand and complete tasks.

Engineering Environment with Core Vocabulary

Creating a learning space enriched with essential vocabulary and communication aids to support language development.

Extended Time

Granting additional time for completing assignments, assessments, or tasks to account for processing speed or other needs.

Habit-Emotional Tracking Apps

An application that collects data regarding emotion, behavior, and habits throughout the day.

Interpreter

A professional who facilitates communication between a student and others by translating spoken language into sign language or vice versa.

Lower Text Complexity

Providing reading materials with simplified language and content to match a student's reading level.

Model Use of Communication Device

Demonstrating how to use communication devices, such as AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) tools, to encourage student participation.

Modify/Repeat/Model Directions

Adjusting instructions, repeating them, or demonstrating the steps to ensure students comprehend and follow directions.

Preferential Seating

Placing a student in a specific location in the classroom, such as closer to the teacher, to optimize their learning environment.

Prompting and Redirecting

Providing cues or reminders to guide a student's behavior or actions back on track during tasks.

Reduce Visual Distractions

Minimizing visual clutter and distractions in the learning environment to help students focus.

Sentence Starters

Providing introductory phrases or sentence beginnings to assist students in initiating their writing.

Shorten Task

Refers to the process of modifying a specific activity or assignment to make it less time-consuming for students.

Symbolized Text

Using symbols, icons, or images alongside text to aid comprehension for students with communication difficulties.

Transferred Answers

Allowing students to respond to assessments or assignments through means other than traditional writing, which are recorded by an aide.

Section 3 Assistive Technology

Adapted Books

Printed materials modified with tactile features, symbols, or interactive elements to make them accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Adapted Classroom Equipment

Adjusted tools and furniture in the classroom to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities.

Adapted Games

Games that have been modified to include sensory or tactile components, allowing individuals with disabilities to participate.

Adapted Eating Utensils

An eating utensil that is modified for alternative gripping, and/or has the ability to prevent spills and shaking of food items.

Adapted Fasteners

A tool that makes zipping and buttoning of clothing easier.

Adapted Keyboard

A keyboard customized with larger keys, color-coded keys, or other modifications for easier use by individuals with motor challenges.

Adapted Paper

Paper with specialized features such as larger lines, raised lines, or textures for improved writing and drawing for those with fine motor difficulties.

Adapted Toy

A toy that has been modified to be accessible and engaging for individuals with disabilities.

Alternative & Augmentative Communication

A set of tools and strategies that assist individuals with communication difficulties, including devices, apps, and systems.

Alternative & Augmentative Communication Dynamic Device

A High Tech form of AAC that involves access to a series of vocabulary on multiple pages on one device.

-Symbolized Motor Plan APP

AAC Apps containing symbolized vocabulary that are arranged primarily by location, and the least amount of navigation to access words.

-Symbolized Grammatical APP

AAC Apps containing symbolized vocabulary that are arranged primarily by the organization of the parts of speech, and folder categories.

-Text Only AAC APP

AAC Apps containing printed text without any symbolization. These apps allow students to store entire words and phrases, and type out sentences to be vocalized through the device.

-Alternative & Augmentative Communication Static Device

A Low or Mid Tech form of AAC that displays a fixed set of vocabulary on each page. Users must manually change pages to access different vocabulary options.

-Printed Core and Fringe Vocabularies

A printed selection of core vocabulary words that never change unless replaced with another printed copy.

-Mid-tech voice output device

A battery-powered device with a static display that plays pre-recorded messages associated with words and symbols.

-Tactile Symbols

Constructed tiles that contain a variety of textures, shapes, and physical patterns that represent specific vocabulary words.

Alternative Mouse

Any input device that can replace a traditional mouse designed to accommodate individuals with various fine motor limitations.

Alternative Pencils

An alternate form of writing for students that cannot use writing tools or keyboards involving the selection of letters and numbers through partner assisted scanning.

Alternative Seating

Furniture designed to provide comfortable and supportive seating options for individuals with postural or sensory needs.

Altering Devices and Software

Tools and software that alert an individual of occurrences, events, hazards, or anything else that a person with hearing difficulties may not notice.

Assistive Listening Device

A device that amplifies sound for individuals with hearing impairments, aiding in better understanding of spoken information.

Braille Note Taker

A portable electronic device used by blind individuals to take notes in Braille.

CCTV

Closed-circuit television system that magnifies and displays printed material on a screen for those with low vision.

Environmental Controls

Devices that enable individuals with limited mobility to control household items like lights, appliances, and doors.

Equation Editor

Software which commonly allows for dictation and helps create and format mathematical equations for individuals with writing or typing challenges.

Eyegaze

Technology that allows individuals to control a computer or device by using eye movements.

Highlighting

Tools that emphasize text or digital content to aid reading and focus.

Joystick

Input device often used by individuals with mobility challenges to control computers or games.

Lifts

Equipment designed to lift and transfer individuals with mobility difficulties, ensuring safe movement.

Low Vision Aids

Device or tool designed to assist individuals with limited sight or a significant visual impairment that cannot be fully corrected by eyeglasses, contact lenses, or medical treatment.

Mounting Systems

Equipment to securely position devices or tools, accommodating different physical abilities.

Note Taking Devices and Software

Tools that assist in capturing and organizing notes for individuals who struggle with traditional note-taking methods.

On Screen Keyboard

A software-based keyboard displayed on the screen that is useful for those who have difficulty using physical keyboards or tracking from the screen to an external keyboard.

Position Aides

Supports that help individuals maintain a comfortable and supportive position for tasks.

Screen Magnification Software

Software that enlarges on-screen content for individuals with visual impairments.

Screen Reader

Software that converts digital text into spoken words, enabling those with visual impairments to access written information.

Sensory Regulation Item

Any tool or piece of equipment that helps a student manage sensory input from their environment to improve focus, comfort, and participation to be prescribed by an occupational therapist.

Sensory Toys/materials

Play items/tools designed to provide sensory stimulation and engagement. Recommended to be prescribed by an occupational therapist.

Slant Board

A surface tilted at an angle to assist individuals with fine motor or visual challenges while reading, writing, or drawing.

Speech to Text
Technology that converts spoken language into written text.

Switching Scanning
A method for individuals with motor difficulties to interact with devices by using switches to navigate through options.

Telecommunication Devices and Software
Tools and software that enable communication via text, video, or other means.

Text to Speech
Technology that converts written text into spoken language.

Optical Character Recognition
Technology that converts printed or handwritten text into machine-readable digital text.

Highlight Reading
Software that reads text only when selected.

Page Reading
Software that reads an entire page of text at a time.

Timers
Devices or software that assist individuals in managing time and tasks, which includes sounds and/or visuals.

Tracking Aides and Masking
Tools that assist individuals in maintaining focus while reading or tracking lines of text.

Universal Cuffs
A tool that straps to the hand and binds different objects which may include eating or writing utensils.

Voice Assistant
Digital tools that respond to voice commands, often used to perform tasks or answer questions.

Voice Recognition
Technology that converts spoken words into text or commands.

Voice Recording
Devices or software that allow individuals to record and store spoken messages.

Wheelchair Support Accessories
Equipment that enhances comfort, positioning, and accessibility for individuals using wheelchairs such as trays or head rests.

Word Prediction
Software that suggests words or phrases as individuals type, aiding those with writing challenges.

Word Processor Software
Computer software designed for creating and editing written documents. Could be customized for specific learning disabilities.