



Handout for our video

Classroom Accommodations for Dyslexic Students

What is an Accommodation?

A change in the way a teacher:

- presents information
- tests students
- has students practice new skills

so that every student has a chance to succeed.

Accommodations Are Fair

Fair does *not* mean treating every student exactly the same.

Fair means providing each student with what that student needs to have a *chance* to succeed.

Dyslexic Students Need:

A teacher who:

- understands their frustration
- understands that their difficulties are due to an inherited brain difference
- will not give up on them
- will not make them look stupid in front of their friends

To reduce Fear & Anxiety:

- Never force them to participate in a spelling bee
- Never force them to read out loud in class
- Never have them write on the board
- Don't pass papers down the row
- Don't allow other students to grade papers or tests
- Never call on them unless they volunteer
- Make sure your classroom is a safe place to make mistakes

Accommodations for Reading

- Provide all books on audio tape
see Books on Tape section below
- During silent sustained reading, allow students to either just read or to listen and read

Books on Tape:

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic

for textbooks

800-221-4792

www.rfbd.org

Recorded Books Rentals

for best sellers, leisure books, and classics

800-638-1304

www.recordedbooks.com

Books on Tape Rentals

for best sellers, leisure books, and classics)

800-88-BOOKS

www.booksontape.com

Your local library

can obtain many recorded books for you

Accommodations for Spelling

Our students can't learn to spell by memorizing, nor can they learn to spell by writing a word 50 times. So:

- Don't grade their spelling tests
- Don't put a spelling grade on their report card
Leave that area blank
- Ignore spelling mistakes on written assignments
Grade on content, not mechanics
- Don't force them to use a traditional dictionary
Allow electronic spell checkers instead

www.BrightSolutions.US

Accommodations for Handwriting

No notetaking:

- Provide a peer notetaker with Carbonless Notebook paper
(Suppliers are listed below)
- Or teacher provides photocopies of her notes and whatever was on the board
- Or tape record the class

No copying out of the book:

- Someone else copies problems out of the book
- Or photocopy the page of problems
Student writes answers on the photocopy

No handwritten assignments:

- Have student dictate written assignments:
to a classroom aide
to a parent or volunteer
into a tape recorder
into a PC using voice recognition software
Suppliers are listed below
- Accept typed assignments created on a:
portable keyboard (AlphaSmart Pro)
laptop computer
classroom computer

Carbonless Notebook paper:

Mayer Educational Products

734-207-7600

www.mayerproducts.com

Star Forms

800-859-7150

www.starform.com

Click on Educators

Click on Peer Scripting Forms

LDR Catalog

800-869-8336

www.learningdifferences.com

Click on LDR Catalog

Click on DoubleTake Supplies

Look at DoubleTake Notebook Paper

Voice Recognition Software

NaturallySpeaking

by Dragon Systems, Inc.

800-4-DRAGON (800-47-2466)

www.dragonsys.com

Via Voice

by IBM

www-4.ibm.com/software/speech/

Portable Keyboards

AlphaSmart Pro

by AlphaSmart Inc.

888-274-0680

www.alphasmart.com

Accommodations for Written Expression

- Provide alternatives to written reports
create a video or mural, do a class presentation, etc.
- Make writing reports a team project

Accommodations for Homework

- Shorten homework assignments
Parent can act as timekeeper
- Avoid sending home unfinished classroom work
Shorten classroom assignments instead
- Be consistent when assigning homework
- Provide a way for parents to determine the homework assignment:
homework buddies
mail home the assignment sheet
answering machine
- Be consistent when collecting homework
- Notify parent immediately if assignment was not turned in.
don't count it late if parent can find it

Accommodations for Memory

- A calculator
or printed copy of multiplication tables
- Ask two-choice questions
instead of open-ended questions

Accommodations for Test Anxiety

- Conduct oral review session during class
- Provide a sample test
- Allow open-book and open-notes tests
or allow students to bring one page of notes to the test
- Oral testing
or teacher tape records the test
student listens to each question
then student dictates each answer into a second tape recorder
- If no oral testing:
Give extended time
student can complete test at home
under parental supervision
Or shorten the test
- If ADD/ADHD, allow test to be taken in a distraction-free room

Test Formats:

Easiest: draw a line from question to answer

Easy: fill in the blank IF

a list of possible answers is printed on the test

Hard: Multiple-choice (too much reading)

Harder: fill-in-the-blank

Hardest: Essay test

Grading:

- Grade shortened assignments or tests as:
number of correct answers
divided by number of problems answered
- If any student gets a poor grade on a test:
allow student to retake the test
or allow student to earn extra credit
- Offer many small quizzes
rather than one or two big exams
- Don't ever flunk a student who participates and tries

To Get These Accommodations:

- Pick the 3 or 4 most important ones
- Discuss them with the student
to make sure you've got the important ones
- If your child has an I.E.P. or 504 Plan:
write a letter asking for a meeting to
modify the plan
add the accommodations to the plan
also add your child's strengths and interests
list ways they will be used in the classroom
- If your child does NOT have an I.E.P. or 504 Plan
ask for a parent-teacher meeting
in a friendly manner, explain your child's
strengths and weaknesses
ask all of his teachers to try
the 3-4 accommodations you're requesting
for one month
hold a follow-up meeting
to check on results
once those accommodations are working,
ask for a few more

Be Proactive

- Each year, meet with your child's new teachers
as early in the year as possible
- Explain your child's strengths and weaknesses
- Share the accommodations that worked well
the prior year
- Ask the new teachers to continue those
accommodations