

# Quick Teacher Guide to Student Accommodations

## Enhancing Executive Function

- Maintain consistent, predictable schedule
- Post schedule in class
- Use verbal reminders
- Post reminders about work assignments
- Give clear, concise instructions
- Demonstrate how to break long assignments into smaller sections
- Create a dated breakdown of projects on student calendar
- Populate a classroom website with classwork and homework
- Have students repeat directions back
- Use timers to support time management

## Assignments and Tests

- Reduce work volume for students with processing or anxiety issues
- Provide prescribed options for students to complete homework assignments
- Modify classroom assignments and tests, e.g., multiple choice/matching column
- Provide more time for tests
- Permit verbal examinations or use of scribes
- Highlight key words on classwork and tests
- Give students sufficient time for oral responses
- Permit use of voice to text software
- Allow use of calculator as needed
- Provide choice (multiple means of expression) on tests and assignments
- Use graphic organizers and rubrics

## Managing Transitions

- Prepare students in advance for changes in routine
- Use checklist at dismissal time
- Allow time, e.g., 2 minutes, for breaks between tasks/transitions
- Reinforce good transition behaviours
- Use transition buddies to help unpack/pack up

## Managing Distractions and Sensory Input

- Create/use low-distraction work areas for classwork and testing (separate area/privacy shields)
- Permit use of sensory tools like squeeze balls, seat cushions, wobble stools
- Encourage use of earplugs or headphones to minimize sensory overload from sound
- Support sensory movement breaks

## Supporting Effective Note Taking

- Establish peer note taking; copy and circulate notes to students who need support
- Post notes/outlines for students to highlight and augment
- Permit use of digital recorders
- Permit students to photograph boards or use image capture

## Promoting Positive Behaviour

- Give specific praise for assignment completion /desired behavior
- Implement student managed requests for time out /decompression breaks
- Send positive notes home
- Use the 3/20 method — spend 3 minutes for 20 days in getting to better know a student with exceptional needs

## About Accommodations

Accommodations are arrangements made to level the playing field and provide students with exceptional learning needs with an opportunity to succeed and demonstrate their subject mastery.