

IEP Support Ideas for ASL Learners

This list offers ideas and accommodations to support ASL learners who have IEPs (Individualized Education Programs). Adapt as needed to fit each student's goals and needs.

Instructional Supports

- Use visual aids, gestures, and realia to reinforce vocabulary.
- Pre-teach key vocabulary before signing activities.
- Provide simplified glossed versions of signed stories.
- Use visual schedules and routines for structure.
- Incorporate interactive activities (matching, manipulatives, ASL games).

Assessment Accommodations

- Allow extended time for expressive or receptive assessments.
- Provide multiple ways to demonstrate learning (video, drawing, choice boards).
- Use checklists or rubrics with visuals for clarity.
- Offer practice rounds before graded expressive tasks.
- Allow students to retake assessments after review.

Communication & Language Access

- Encourage use of expressive visuals like drawings to support signing.
- Allow for fingerspelling or signing in parts if full sentences are difficult.
- Provide sentence frames for signing responses.
- Pair students with peer models or use small group instruction.
- Allow voice support as a bridge for lower-level learners when necessary.

Behavioral & Emotional Supports

- Use positive reinforcement for participation and risk-taking in signing.
- Provide calm-down strategies with visual cues (e.g., sign 'BREAK').
- Use social stories to explain Deaf culture norms and classroom expectations.
- Provide structured routines to reduce anxiety and build confidence.
- Allow for movement or sensory breaks as needed.

Environmental Supports

- Ensure clear sightlines to teacher and signing peers.
- Use consistent lighting and minimize distractions during signing tasks.
- Seat student in proximity to visual supports and interpreter (if applicable).
- Use color-coded folders or tabs to organize ASL materials.
- Display word walls, NMM charts, and classifier visuals in classroom.