

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Dyslexia Teacher Guide

Purpose

Practical classroom strategies, accommodations, printable learning support ideas, and assessment options designed specifically for ASL teachers working with students who have dyslexia.

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a language-based learning difference that primarily affects reading, spelling, and the connection between letters and sounds. It is not related to intelligence. Students with dyslexia are capable learners who often thrive with multisensory instruction, strong visual supports, and extra time to process written English text.

Student Strengths

- Strong visual-spatial thinker
- Big-picture thinker
- Creative problem solver
- Strong verbal storyteller
- Persistent
- Excellent hands-on learner

Teaching Strategies

- Pair written English with ASL and visuals, not text alone
- Break fingerspelling and print words into smaller chunks
- Use multisensory teaching (visual, tactile, kinesthetic)
- Allow extra processing time for written tasks
- Pre-teach vocabulary before reading activities
- Repeat and review key sign-to-print connections often

Learning Support Activities

- Sign-to-print matching cards
- Color-coded fingerspelling by letter pattern
- Word banks paired with picture and sign cues
- Multisensory fingerspelling practice (tracing, tapping)
- Short, chunked reading passages with visual support

Assessment Ideas

- Video and sign-based responses instead of written ones
- Extended time on written or fingerspelling tasks
- Oral/signed reading of instructions
- One-on-one assessments

Things to Avoid

- Timed reading or fingerspelling drills under pressure
- Requiring students to read aloud/sign unpracticed text publicly
- Large blocks of unbroken written text
- Assuming reading difficulty means low comprehension or ability

Remember

Every student is unique. Use these strategies together with each student's IEP, Section 504 Plan, school policies, and professional judgment. The goal is not to lower expectations, but to provide meaningful access to learning.