

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Executive Functioning Teacher Guide

Purpose

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

What is Executive Functioning?

Executive functioning refers to the mental skills used to plan, organize, initiate tasks, manage time, and regulate attention and behavior. Students with executive functioning challenges are capable learners who often thrive with external structure, visual organizers, and explicit teaching of planning and self-monitoring skills.

Student Strengths

- Creative problem solver
- Enthusiastic starter
- Big-picture thinker
- Adaptable
- Strong verbal/sign contributor in discussion
- Motivated by novelty and choice

Teaching Strategies

- Post visual schedules and step-by-step task lists
- Break assignments into smaller, checkable chunks
- Use timers to support pacing and transitions
- Teach planning explicitly (what's first, next, last)
- Provide checklists for multi-step tasks
- Build in regular check-in points during work time

Learning Support Activities

- Visual task-sequence cards
- Graphic organizers for planning sign presentations
- Checklists with check-off boxes for multi-step work
- Timer-based work/break routines
- Color-coded materials by subject or task

Assessment Ideas

- Checklist-based rubrics for multi-step tasks
- Break longer assessments into shorter timed segments
- Allow use of planning tools during assessment
- Observation of task initiation and follow-through

Things to Avoid

- Giving long, unstructured, open-ended assignments
- Multiple deadlines announced all at once
- Assuming disorganization reflects low motivation
- Removing all structure as a "challenge"

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.