

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS FOR ASD STUDENTS

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES • TEACHER RESOURCE

Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may demonstrate their knowledge in different ways. Alternative assessments should measure the same learning objectives while providing flexible opportunities for students to show what they know and can do in an ASL classroom.

Expressive ASL Assessments

- Record a signed response instead of presenting live.
- Demonstrate vocabulary individually with the teacher.
- Complete a structured dialogue with a familiar partner.
- Present in a small group before presenting to the class.

Receptive ASL Assessments

- Picture-supported matching activities.
- Multiple-choice receptive quizzes.
- Vocabulary sorting and categorizing.
- Identify signs from short video clips.

Performance-Based Assessments

- Demonstrate targeted vocabulary in context.
- Complete role-play activities with clear expectations.
- Create a simple ASL story using lesson vocabulary.
- Participate in teacher-guided conversations.

Flexible Assessment Options

- Break larger assessments into smaller sections.
- Allow additional processing time when appropriate.
- Provide visual checklists during assessments.
- Reduce unnecessary sensory distractions during testing.

Teacher Considerations

- Use clear and predictable assessment routines.
- Assess the learning objective—not social communication differences.
- Build on student strengths and interests.
- Follow accommodations documented in the student's IEP or Section 504 Plan.

★ Key Takeaway

Alternative assessments should provide meaningful opportunities for students with ASD to demonstrate mastery while preserving the same learning objectives and academic expectations. The assessment format may change—the standard does not.