

TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES • TEACHER RESOURCE

Students with executive functioning challenges benefit from instruction that provides structure, organization, and predictable routines. These teaching strategies help students plan, initiate, manage, and complete tasks while maintaining the same learning objectives and high academic expectations.

Establish Predictable Routines

- Begin each class with a consistent agenda.
- Review daily learning objectives.
- End class with a summary and reminders.
- Keep classroom expectations consistent.

Break Tasks into Manageable Steps

- Divide large assignments into smaller tasks.
- Provide checklists for multi-step activities.
- Model one step before introducing the next.
- Celebrate progress throughout the process.

Teach Organizational Skills

- Demonstrate how to organize notes and materials.
- Encourage students to use planners or digital reminders.
- Color-code materials when appropriate.
- Review organizational routines regularly.

Support Attention & Time Management

- Allow short movement breaks when appropriate.
- Use timers to help students manage activities.
- Provide reminders before transitions.
- Check in periodically during independent work.

Encourage Independence

- Teach students to monitor their own progress.
- Encourage self-advocacy and asking for help.
- Gradually reduce supports as skills improve.
- Reinforce successful strategies.

ASL Classroom Considerations

- Model visual organization strategies.
- Use visual schedules and lesson sequences.
- Provide multiple opportunities to practice new skills.
- Maintain consistent routines while supporting flexibility when appropriate.

★ Key Takeaway

Executive functioning skills improve with explicit instruction, practice, and consistent support. By teaching organization, planning, and self-management strategies, educators help students become more independent while maintaining the same academic expectations.