

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS FOR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES • TEACHER RESOURCE

Alternative assessments provide students with intellectual disabilities multiple ways to demonstrate their understanding of American Sign Language. These assessment options focus on what students know and can do while maintaining the same learning objectives and high expectations.

Expressive ASL Assessments

- Demonstrate vocabulary through live signing.
- Record short signed responses to teacher prompts.
- Participate in guided ASL conversations.
- Present familiar signs and concepts using visual supports.

Receptive ASL Assessments

- Complete picture-to-sign matching activities.
- Identify signs from short video clips.
- Use multiple-choice receptive assessments.
- Sort vocabulary into meaningful categories.

Performance-Based Assessments

- Demonstrate ASL skills during role-play activities.
- Complete hands-on communication tasks.
- Participate in teacher-guided demonstrations.
- Show learning through projects completed over multiple sessions.

Flexible Assessment Options

- Break assessments into smaller sections.
- Allow additional processing and response time.
- Use visual cues and prompts when appropriate.
- Assess students individually or in small groups when beneficial.

Teacher Considerations

- Assess ASL knowledge rather than speed of performance.
- Focus on student growth and meaningful progress.
- Maintain the same learning objectives while providing appropriate supports.
- Celebrate success and provide frequent positive feedback.

★ Key Takeaway

Alternative assessments should provide students with intellectual disabilities meaningful opportunities to demonstrate their ASL knowledge—not reduce academic expectations. By offering flexible assessment methods, teachers can better recognize student strengths, growth, and understanding while working toward the same learning objectives.