

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS FOR SPEECH & LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES • TEACHER RESOURCE

Alternative assessments provide students with speech and language impairments multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of American Sign Language without relying on a single communication method. These assessments emphasize student knowledge, communication, and growth while maintaining the same learning objectives.

Expressive ASL Assessments

- Demonstrate vocabulary and concepts through signing.
- Record short ASL video responses.
- Participate in structured conversations with the teacher or peers.
- Present projects using expressive ASL.

Receptive ASL Assessments

- Identify signs from video clips.
- Match pictures to signed vocabulary.
- Complete multiple-choice receptive activities.
- Demonstrate comprehension through visual response tasks.

Performance-Based Assessments

- Participate in role-play and real-life communication scenarios.
- Complete hands-on ASL activities and demonstrations.
- Create visual projects that incorporate ASL concepts.
- Demonstrate skills during teacher-guided activities.

Flexible Assessment Options

- Accept signed, spoken, written, picture-supported, or AAC responses when appropriate.
- Break assessments into smaller sections.
- Allow additional processing and response time.
- Assess individually or in small groups when beneficial.

Teacher Considerations

- Assess communication and ASL understanding—not speech production alone.
- Focus on student strengths and meaningful progress.
- Provide constructive, encouraging feedback.
- Maintain the same learning objectives while offering flexible ways to demonstrate learning.

★ Key Takeaway

Alternative assessments should measure a student's ASL knowledge and communication skills—not simply their ability to communicate in one specific way. By providing multiple assessment options, teachers create equitable opportunities for every student to demonstrate success while working toward the same learning objectives.