

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPEECH & LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES • TEACHER RESOURCE

Accommodations help students with speech and language impairments access instruction and demonstrate their understanding without changing the learning objectives. These supports reduce communication barriers, encourage participation, and promote success while maintaining high expectations in the ASL classroom.

Instructional Accommodations

- Present directions using clear visual supports and demonstrations.
- Break multi-step directions into smaller parts.
- Pre-teach important vocabulary and concepts.
- Check for understanding throughout instruction.
- Model expectations before independent practice.

Communication Supports

- Allow additional processing and response time.
- Accept signed, spoken, written, picture-supported, or AAC responses when appropriate.
- Encourage communication without interrupting or finishing responses.
- Provide visual cues and sentence starters when helpful.

Assessment Accommodations

- Provide flexible response options that measure the same ASL objectives.
- Break longer assessments into shorter sections.
- Assess individually or in small groups when beneficial.
- Focus evaluation on ASL knowledge and communication—not speech fluency.

Classroom Supports

- Maintain a visually accessible learning environment.
- Reduce distractions during communication activities.
- Use partner and small-group practice opportunities.
- Reinforce effort, confidence, and successful communication strategies.

Important Reminders

- Accommodations remove barriers—they do not lower expectations.
- Focus on what students know and can communicate.
- Different students may require different communication supports.
- Promote independence while encouraging meaningful participation.

★ Key Takeaway

Accommodations for students with speech and language impairments are designed to provide equitable access—not reduce rigor. By supporting communication through flexible strategies and visual instruction, teachers help every student demonstrate ASL knowledge while working toward the same learning objectives.