

TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR VISUAL SUPPORTS

LEARNING SUPPORT ACTIVITIES • TEACHER RESOURCE

Visual supports are most effective when they are intentionally planned and consistently used throughout instruction. In the ASL classroom, visual supports help students organize information, improve comprehension, strengthen memory, and increase independence while supporting the same learning objectives for every learner.

Introduce Visual Supports Before Instruction

- Preview vocabulary using pictures, illustrations, or real objects.
- Introduce graphic organizers before new lessons.
- Explain how each visual support will be used.
- Connect visuals to prior knowledge.

Model & Practice Together

- Demonstrate how to use visual organizers and checklists.
- Complete examples as a class before independent work.
- Encourage students to reference visuals during learning.
- Gradually release responsibility as confidence grows.

Integrate Visual Supports Daily

- Include visuals in lessons, assessments, and classroom routines.
- Pair visuals with authentic ASL communication.
- Update supports as new concepts are introduced.
- Keep visual materials organized and accessible.

Use Consistent Visual Cues

- Use the same symbols, colors, and icons throughout instruction.
- Display classroom anchor charts for ongoing reference.
- Create predictable visual routines.
- Reinforce important concepts with repeated visuals.

Encourage Student Independence

- Teach students to use visual supports without prompting.
- Provide checklists for multi-step activities.
- Encourage self-monitoring and organization.
- Celebrate successful independent use of supports.

ASL Classroom Considerations

- Maximize visual access throughout the room.
- Reduce unnecessary visual distractions.
- Use teacher modeling alongside visual supports.
- Remember that visual supports enhance—but never replace—meaningful ASL interaction.

★ Key Takeaway

Visual supports are powerful teaching tools when they are intentionally integrated into everyday instruction. By combining visual resources with authentic ASL communication, teachers create engaging, accessible learning experiences that help every student succeed while working toward the same learning objectives.