Student With Attention Difficulties

Classroom Scenario

Henry has come to your classroom with the reputation of disrupting other students and causing trouble. You see a bright student, but he certainly has a problem with staying in his seat and paying attention to directions. You also notice that he does well with active learning assignments. He seems to need to move about. He is also very disorganized with his schoolwork and desk space, and his notes are a mess. You are wondering how to prompt Henry stay on task and behave more appropriately so that your classroom can run smoothly.

Potential Solutions

- Encourage him to expend excess energy using fidgets or the “under the desk cycle.”
- Use a visual timer or a wrist timer with vibration to stay on task and complete assignments in the allotted time frame.
- Low tech reading aids such as colored overlays and reading guides may be helpful.
- Use supports similar to those listed for students with learning disabilities (e.g., help with notetaking, text to speech, vocabulary support, word prediction, graphic organizers, time management apps, etc.).