



Student Profiles in Typical Classrooms


Student 1


- **Experiences a Learning Disability:** struggles with executive functioning, reading, writing, and notetaking. Needs help with organization such as planning out the steps of a project and getting started; reading assignments, especially new vocabulary; writing needs include planning, spelling, and grammar; notetaking; may struggle with math concepts and processes.
- **Supports:** Reading supports might include Advanced Reading Aid like Kurzweil 3000, Snap and Read Universal, Read and Write Gold for Chrome, or Natural Reader, the C-Pen Reader can help with vocabulary within reading assignments. Organization supports would include Graphic Organizers, time management apps, color coded notebook sections. Writing tasks could be supported with Co:Writer Universal or Kurzweil 3000 for planning to write, and word prediction for spelling and grammar support. Notetaking could be supported with PPT notes, G.O., or Livescribe Pen; Portable word processors or iPads can help students who struggle with handwriting.

Student 2

- **Experiences ADHD:** Struggles with focused attention, need to move about; may need support with reading, writing, or organization as well as notetaking.
- **Supports:** Student can pay attention more effectively if encouraged to expend excess energy using fidgets or the “under the desk cycle.” The student may have need of 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 in addition to the supports listed above.

Student 3


- **Experiences Autism:** functions “well” academically but struggles with pragmatics in communication (literal meaning of phrases, what to say in certain situations) so may have trouble working in groups; may have trouble getting started on projects and other organizational skills; prone to writing meltdowns because all steps in the process need support as well as possible handwriting issues.
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- **Supports:** This student may benefit from a video modeling or social skills app to help them know what is appropriate in different settings. Needs support with all aspects of the writing process using planning (graphic organizers), drafting, word prediction, and editing components of Kurzweil 3000 or Co:Writer Universal. Keyboarding instruction and speech recognition may also be helpful for this student, as writing can be very frustrating for them.

Student 4

- **Speaks English as a Second Language:** Struggles with vocabulary and may need graphics or ability to translate words in reading assignments.
- **Supports:** The C-pen Reader can help this student with looking up new vocabulary words as can an Advanced Reading Aid such as Kurzweil 3000 with its built-in translation feature; Snap and Read and NewsELA can help with lowering the lexile level of text if needed. Graphics and symbols can be added to text to increase understanding with Pixwriter (elementary level). Kurzweil 3000 has a translation feature and dictionary options that would be quite helpful.

Student 5

- **Experiences a Mild Intellectual Disability:** struggles with understanding difficult concepts, short-term memory, may read at a lower level than peers, struggles with abstract concepts and math, and organizing information.
 - **Supports:** This student needs support to reinforce and practice understanding of a limited number of main ideas from a unit of study. This student will benefit from making language visible, explaining new vocabulary, building background knowledge, and breaking down concepts. Programs such as Classroom Suite and Boardmaker can help a student to use pictures to reinforce new vocabulary and concepts. The use of Graphic Organizers such as the Inspiration app can make it clear how concepts fit together or create a timeline. Math can be supported through the use of tools such as the Mathline or a calculator. Reading level of text can be adjusted using Snap and Read or online tools such as NewsELA.
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Student 6

- **Experiences a Physical Disability:** struggle with access to classroom activities. (They may also need other types of support.)
- **Supports:** This student may need a switch to operate a book reader such as the Bookworm, or software such as Kurzweil 3000, depending on the age and ability of the student. He/she may use a communication device to participate in a classroom discussion, possibly use eyegaze. Alternate keyboards, such as the Big Keys or IntelliKeys keyboard, could help this student. The All-Turn-It Spinner may give access to games or activities in the classroom as well. This student may need to have an adjustable height desk to accommodate different working positions during the day. Seems that these students often need a seating and posture check-up as there are many unsustainable postures that influence academics negatively.

Student 7

- **Experiences a Sensory Impairment:** may have a hearing or vision loss that limits their access to the curriculum.
 - **Supports:** A student with a hearing impairment may benefit from a listening system that gives them increased volume and clarity during classroom instruction. This student may need a sign language interpreter or closed captioning to help with instruction. Notetaking apps such as Sonocent may capture audio from lectures or activities and convert to text, but topic-specific vocabulary could be difficult to capture. A student with a visual impairment will need a way to increase the size of text, such as a CCTV or screen magnification software like JAWS, or they may need alternative large print or Braille materials (AEMs). The adapted microscope with a digital display can help this individual to be included in a biology experience.
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