

Strategies for Active Learners

Cushion

Try non distracting ways for students to be active while at their desks such as using a small inflatable cushion to sit on.

Fidget toys

Allow students to use small fidget toys such as transformers or a squeeze ball. Doodling also helps some students.

Two work areas

Establish two work areas and allow students to move between them eg. working at a desk or table and then move to a whiteboard.

Movement breaks

Give brief and frequent movement breaks.

What's happening?

At the start of the session set the expectations and give a brief overview of the main activities.

Active responses

Incorporate an active response such as standing up when the student agrees.

Stand while reading

Allow students to stand while reading, especially when working with them individually.

Beyond the book

Use manipulatives such as magnetic letters, word family cards, wiki sticks, to practise and reinforce what is being taught.

Games

Use games to practice what has been taught eg. sight vocabulary; reading and following directions; word families. Other games help with impulse control and to develop attention span. Play the

traditional game of Simon Says. Ask the student to stand and face you. Then give actions such as "Touch your nose," "Nod your head," "Clap your hands," etc. Sometimes begin the actions with the preface "Simon says ..." and sometimes the directives should be given without the preface. Students are to only follow the directions that Simon says. In order to be successful at this game students must stop and think before acting. Discuss how the students performed and how the ability to use impulse control helps one to win such games.

Specific Positive Comments

Try non distracting ways for students to be active while at their desks such as using a small inflatable cushion to sit on.

Focus

Allow students to use small fidget toys such as transformers or a squeeze ball. Doodling also helps some students.

Read Aloud Books

Establish two work areas and allow students to move between them eg. working at a desk or table and then move to a whiteboard.

Drawing

Give brief and frequent movement breaks.

Be realistic

At the start of the session set the expectations and give a brief overview of the main activities.

Extend attention span

Incorporate an active response such as standing up when the student agrees.

Talk out loud

Allow students to stand while reading, especially when working with them individually.