

## How to ...

...facilitate homework accommodations.

### In general

Students with learning disorders may experience non-motor difficulties, which can have a significant impact on daily life activities.

These include memory, perception and processing as well as additional problems with planning, organizing and carrying out movements in the right order in everyday situations.

Having in mind that some activities have to be carried out after school, it is important both for parents and educators to share a common ground on the topic of homework: how much, how often, communication about it and deadlines.

A diagnosed SLD pupil needs to follow specific advice and be given instructions in order to be effective at homework. Therefore, we present below some hints for designing a friendly environment for an SLD student.

## Facilitating accommodations

### Explain the reason for the homework

The most common reason is of course to practice the knowledge they gain during the lesson, but sometimes they need to do something extra in order to prepare for another part of the lesson. By explaining students long term benefits of the assignment and how they can use it in life will help them focus more on the task.

### Homework buddy

If you have Dys student in classroom pair them with another student who can check with them if the homework assignment was written correctly. Additionally, each student can write a name of 2 classmates that they can ask about the homework.

## Make the evaluation process transparent

Students with learning disorders work more efficient when they know what to expect. Will you give grades for the assignment? What will be the consequences of not completing the task? Will you give the feedback to all the students or collect notebooks just from some? Try to provide such information in advance.

## Show them how to create a Mind Map

With such tool, the pupil can organize better his daily routines, which will allow him to have control of the time assigned for lessons and leisure activities. A mind map provides a total picture of any activity the pupil wants to analyze. It's a tool that both family and pupil may operate to have a balanced and organized daily routine.

## Using a graphic calendar

You prepare an online calendar or colorful outline/chart that will be given to students to fill in during homework activities. This helps pupils to keep track of the deadlines.

## Allow a recorder in the classroom.

Many problems with materials are related to reading difficulties. The recorder is a good help in overcoming this problem. Directions, stories, and specific lessons can be recorded and repeated anytime. The student can replay the tape to clarify understanding of certain concepts.

## Set limits to the homework

DYS students sometimes spend 3x more time on doing homework than their classmates. Let them and their parents know that after certain amount of time they can stop the work as making breaks and relax is important part of learning process. Introduce them to Pomodoro technique: The technique uses a timer to break down work into intervals, traditionally 25 minutes in length, separated by short breaks<sup>1</sup>

## Tools recommendation:

- Mindmaps : have a look at our visual thinking tools
- Kanban

- Trello
- Post It stickers

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