MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

Support processing and organisation skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Helpful classroom strategies years 9–13' from the Guide: Down syndrome and learning

Includes:

Support concentration and memory

Offer visual timers

Support planning and organisation

Model planning and thinking

Support thinking and pattern recognition

Useful resources

Inclusive Education
From
Guide: Down syndrome and learning
Strategy: Helpful classroom strategies years 9–13
Suggestion: Support processing and organisation skills
Date
19 May 2024
Link
inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills-2

Support concentration and memory

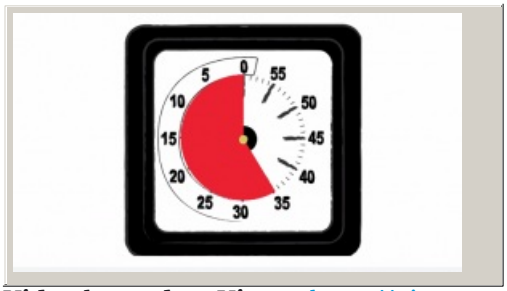
Provide options to support concentration and short-term memory.

- ✔ Monitor and moderate the classroom for visual and auditory distractions.
- ✔ Present information in a range of ways over an extended period of time (for example, a week) to help students retain information, build up their understanding and familiarity of the topic, and stay stimulated and focused.
- ✔ Discuss with students the effectiveness of the learning environment and remove barriers and make modifications where needed.
- ✔ In online environments, make effective use of visual prompts and cues to support understanding and navigation. Make useful hyperlinks to background knowledge or previous learning to increase connections.
- ✔ Schedule regular short breaks to allow students to move physically.

Offer visual timers

Visual timers, can help students "see" the time they have for a task.

This can reduce stress and increase motivation.



Video hosted on Vimeo http://vimeo.com/27596627

No captions or transcript

Source:
Time Timer (US)
http://vimeo.com/27596627

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Support planning and organisation

Help students to be more independent by providing tools that support planning and organisation.

- ✔ Use charts, visual calendars, colour coded schedules, visible timers and cues to increase the predictability of regular activities and transitions.
- ✔ Encourage students to use their mobile devices to schedule alerts and reminders for regular and novel events and task deadlines.
- ✔ Model and make available graphic organisers and flow charts to support planning and thinking in all curriculum areas.
- ✔ Break tasks and lengthy assignments into small, manageable parts. Schedule workflow using Trello to organise what needs to be done and when.
- ✔ Provide options so that students can submit work online.

Model planning and thinking

Source:
Laurie Sullivan
https://www.flickr.com/photos/32561453@N05/8711384625/in/photolist-egN89D-egTTVS-egN86c-egN8kp-egTTA1-egN8tv-egN8ja-egTTPG-egTTXN-egN88e-egTTUC-egN8eX-egTTyj-egTTHQ-egN8di

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Support thinking and pattern recognition

Use tools and approaches to help students to recognise patterns, critical features, big ideas and relationships.

- ✔ Use visuals — graphics, photos, cartoons, pictures — to support text and talk when explaining anything.
- ✔ Offer 3D virtual and physical models and real objects to help students identify critical features.
- ✔ Use mind maps, flowcharts, and outlines to help students unpack big ideas and relationships.
- ✔ Give students multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas and concepts.
- ✔ Provide extra time for students to think and process before they need to respond in a discussion.
- ✔ Use mindmaps to brainstorm ideas.
- ✔ Support group and class discussions with visual annotations to prompt later recall of key ideas.
- ✔ Make thinking tools and approaches available across all curriculum areas.

Useful resources

UDL Curriculum toolkit: Building Flexible, Customizable Learning Environments

This resource was developed to facilitate the creation of flexible UDL instructional materials. The Toolkit software enables any curriculum developer or researcher to design web-based curricula or interventions — from scratch, as well as to retrofit existing curricula into a UDL-supported, scaffolded learning environment for middle and high school students.

Publisher: CAST

Visit website

Free graphic organiser templates

Free graphic organiser templates in pdf format.

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Visit website

Time Timer (visual timer for visual people!)

For many students being able to see a visual representation of time passing can really support their time management. This video explains how time timer works.

Publisher: Time Timer

Visit website

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