

Tip Sheet: Strategies for Supporting Students

- Model an example for students when they do not understand what they should do.
- Restate or simplify questions, directions, instructions, etc. Focus on big ideas rather than details.
- Check for comprehension frequently. Do not ask yes-no questions because many students will simply answer, "yes." Ask the student an open-ended question that encourages them to explain their answer with words, gestures, pictures, or in another non-verbal way. For example, "What is the life cycle of a fruit fly?"
- If students are afraid to share their thoughts or answers with the entire class or the teacher, act as their sounding-board. If they are correct, encourage them to share. If they are incorrect, help them find the correct answer.
- When students need to look up vocabulary words or definitions, help them navigate picture dictionaries, language-learning dictionaries (these can be either online or in hard copy), and translation apps.
- Make sure that students are literally on the same page as the rest of the class. For example, check that they're on the correct page in the textbook, on the correct worksheet, or on the same number problem.
- Project readings to guide students by pointing to where you are in the text as you read aloud.
- Use an index card to cover up the text below where you are reading to keep students focused on where you are in the text.



- Ensure students have copied down assignments correctly. If they are written on the board, help them to locate them. If an assignment is given orally, students may need to see it in writing to fully understand.
- Activate the captions in a video so the students come away with more comprehension.
- During lectures or information-giving times, take notes while students take notes.
- Provide either a complete outline or a partial outline that the student must fill in during lectures.
- Read required texts, chapters, assignments aloud to students.
- Break down multi-stepped assignments into smaller, easier-to-understand chunks.
- Preview an activity/assignment you know a mainstream teacher will be presenting soon.
- Review and reinforce material already presented and/or taught.
- Clarify vocabulary.
- Make sure students are following directions and working on the correct assignment.