

Working with ADHD Children

ADHD children's needs

1. A lot of support. Teacher flexibility, commitment and willingness to work with them are critical as changes and accommodations are needed.
2. Clarity in behavior expectations, consequences for meeting or not meeting them, and structure to help them function successfully.
3. Academic tasks broken into manageable assignments using teacher scaffolded, then, guided instruction, clear directions and expectations of work quality for independent work and frequent feedback.
4. Creative, engaging, and interactive teaching strategies that keep ADHD children involved and actively interacting with their peers.
5. Permission to get up and move in the classroom, i.e., bringing their chunk of completed work for you to do a quick check (feedback).
6. Modifying assignments and cutting the written workload. What takes an average child to accomplish in 20 minutes, may take an ADHD student hours to finish, especially the written work.
7. Limit the amount of homework. Many teachers send any incomplete work home. Remember that if a student is unable to complete the work at school during the entire school day, it is unlikely that it will be completed at home. Teachers need to **PRIORITIZE** and **MODIFY** the academic work for ADHD students.
8. Assistance with organization. Need help to make sure assignments are recorded correctly and desk is free of collection of unnecessary junk.
9. More time for assessments. Students with ADHD usually know the information but have a difficult time getting them down on paper.
10. Modifications in the environment to have eye contact with the teacher, be seated with well-focused students or bigger space.
11. Valued and appreciated. ADHD children's self-esteem is very fragile. Avoid ridicule and embarrassing the students in front of their peers.
12. Close communication between the home and the school. Open line of communication between the teacher and the parent is very important in helping the student succeed.

Reference: How to Reach and Teach ADD/ADHD Children by Sandra F. Rief

