40 Winning Accommodations for Your ADD/LD Child

From ADDitude’s Experts

ADDitude
LIVING WELL WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT
TERMS OF USE
Copyright © 2013 by New Hope Media. All rights reserved. No part of this report may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, faxing, e-mailing, posting online, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the Publisher.

All trademarks and brands referred to herein are the property of their respective owners. All references to ADDitude magazine, ADDitudeMag.com, and ADDConnect.com are trademarks of New Hope Media.

CONTACT INFORMATION
New Hope Media
1-646-366-0830
39 West 37th Street, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10018

LEGAL NOTICES
While all attempts have been made to verify information provided in this publication, neither the author nor the publisher assumes any responsibility for error, omissions, or contrary interpretations of the subject matter contained herein.

The purchaser or reader of this publication assumes responsibility for the use of these materials and information. Adherence to all applicable laws and regulations, both referral and state and local, governing professional licensing, business practices, advertising, and all other aspects of doing business in the United States or any other jurisdiction, is the sole responsibility of the purchaser or reader. The author and publisher assume no responsibility or liability whatsoever on the behalf of any purchaser or reader of these materials. Any perceived slights of specific people or organizations are unintentional.
Increase the odds of your child succeeding in school by pinpointing his problems in the classroom and including effective accommodations in his IEP or 504 Plan to remedy them. Below is a list of challenges your child may face during the school day along with specific accommodations to overcome them. Talk with your child’s teacher about implementing these strategies.

PROBLEM: ACTS UP IN CLASSROOM
“Erik is easily distracted by classroom activity, acts out in class to gain negative attention, and reaches across desks to talk to or touch other students.”

ACCOMMODATIONS TO REQUEST
- Seat him front and center, near the teacher, and away from doors or windows where noise or passing students may distract him
- Tweak the seating plan so he sits next to a good role model
- Increase the distance between desks, if possible
- For younger students, mark an area with tape around his desk in which he can move freely

PROBLEM: INCOMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS
“Julie is unable to complete work within the given time, isn’t able to keep up the quality of work, and has difficulty following instructions.”

ACCOMMODATIONS TO REQUEST
- Allow her extra time to complete assigned work
- Break long assignments into smaller segments
- Shorten assignments or work periods
- Pair written instructions with oral instructions
- Set a kitchen timer for 10-minute intervals and have the student get up and show you her work
- Provide her peer assistance in note taking and ask her questions to encourage participation in discussions
- Enlist her to help present the lesson
- Cue her to stay on task with a private signal—a gentle tap on the shoulder, for example
- Schedule a five-minute period for her to check over work before turning in homework or tests.
PROBLEM: INTERRUPTS
“Robby constantly engages in attention-getting behavior, blurts out answers, and interrupts others. He needs reinforcement and long-term help with improving behavior.”

ACCOMMODATIONS TO REQUEST
- Ignore minor inappropriate behavior
- Increase immediacy of rewards and consequences for good and bad behavior
- Acknowledge correct answers only when his hand is raised and he is called upon
- Send daily/weekly progress reports home
- Set up a behavior contract with student and parents

PROBLEM: LOSES FOCUS
“Alex daydreams a lot and isn’t able to stay focused on the subject matter that is being taught.”

ACCOMMODATIONS TO REQUEST
- Use clear verbal signals: “Freeze,” “This is important,” or “One, two, three… eyes on me”
- Use a flashlight or a laser pointer to illuminate objects or words you want him to pay attention to
- Illustrate vocabulary words and science concepts with small drawings or stick figures
- Ring a bell or chimes; play a chord on a guitar or keyboard.

PROBLEM: RESTLESS IN CLASS
“Robby is constantly tapping his foot and fingers in class and has difficulty focusing for long periods of time.”

ACCOMMODATIONS TO REQUEST
- Allow him to run errands, to hand out papers, or to stand at times while working
- Give him a fidget toy in class to calm him down and to increase concentration
- Provide short breaks between assignments
- Give him an air-filled rubber disk to sit on that allows him to wiggle.

PROBLEM: DISORGANIZED, POOR PLANNER
“Anita can’t keep track of papers and has trouble remembering homework assignments. She loses books all the time.”

ACCOMMODATIONS TO REQUEST
- Color code binders to specific academic subjects—green for math, red for English
- Provide handouts that are three-hole punched in advance
- Use brightly colored paper for project assignments, providing details and due dates
- Provide student with assignment book and supervise writing down of assignments
- Appoint monitors to make sure that students write down homework assignments at the end of the day
- Allow student to keep a set of books at home

PROBLEM: SOCIAL PROBLEMS
“Marnie is unclear about social cues. She does not work well with others and isn’t respected by her peers. As a result, she has low self-confidence.”

ACCOMMODATIONS TO REQUEST
- Set up social-behavior goals with her and implement a reward program
- Encourage cooperative learning tasks
- Assign special responsibilities to her in presence of peer group
- Compliment positive behavior and work
- Give her an opportunity to act in a leadership role
- Encourage social interactions with classmates
- Plan teacher-directed group activities
- Acknowledge appropriate behavior and good work frequently

To learn more about ADD/ADHD, visit ADDitudeMag.com. Find more great downloadable ADD/ADHD guides, posters, and resources at ADDitudeMag.com/resources/printables.html.