EFFECTIVE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS 2/24/21

Presenter: Erin Briley, Mountain Plains, MHTTC Technical Trainer

VISUAL PROCESSING DIFFICULTIES

1. When providing instruction:

- a. Repeat and explain visual tasks to ensure what was visualized is correctly processed
- b. Provide written instructions as a reference

2. Provide supports:

- a. Supplement visual tasks with verbal cues. Provide "hands on" experiences.
- b. Reduce work when visual processing skills are involved or provide more time to complete tasks
- c. Have student visualize steps before proceeding
- d. Provide bookmarks, lined paper, etc. to help with visual organization and decrease visual stimulation. Some find it helpful to arrange work so only one problem appears on the page at a time
- e. Use concrete materials to reinforce new concepts
- f. Provide guide dots to cue when to start (green) and when to stop (red)
- g. Arrange assignments so that there aren't so many close visual activities
- h. Structure work. Provide graph paper for math and lined paper for writing, use numbered boxes, columns, etc
- If handwriting is poor, consider having student complete their work on a computer or word processor & verify all homework assignments copied from the whiteboard or from teacher's oral instructions
- j. If unable to copy from the board, provide the master copy from which to copy

3. Learning Strategies:

- a. Have student verbalize information (lectures, verbal instructions, verbal questions, discussion groups)
- b. Capitalize on other auditory approaches (tape recorders, group readings)
- c. Have student reread and rewrite notes
- d. Encourage use of mnemonics

This document was prepared for the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (Mountain Plains MHTTC) under a cooperative agreement from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). All material appearing in this document, except that taken directly from copyrighted sources, is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission from SAMHSA or the authors. Citation of the source is appreciated. Do not reproduce or distribute this presentation for a fee without specific, written authorization from the Mountain Plains MHTTC. For more information on obtaining copies of this document please email: swinfield@wiche.edu.



At the time of this publication, Tom Coderre served as acting SAMHSA Assistant Secretary. The opinions expressed herein are the views of Erin Briley and do not reflect the official position of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), or SAMHSA. No official support or endorsement of DHHS, SAMHSA, for the opinions described in this document is intended or should be inferred.

The work of the Mountain Plains MHTTC is supported by grant H79SM081792 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.