

## Students with dysgraphia & Art

The National Center for Learning Disabilities advocates the use of art. Art provides children who have characteristics of dysgraphia with means to express themselves in different forms of media and develop a sense of self-confidence in the process.

## Picture-Book Readings and Line Drawings

Children with severe intellectual disabilities and little or no spoken language may benefit from the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) strategies such as the use of graphic symbols.

This handout will act as a guide to instructional strategies that involve art and illustration.



# Instructional Strategies using Art & Illustration:

A guide for educators and parents

## Hong Kong Special School: Visual Arts

What the processes of learning visual arts can allow students to experience is a form of self-actualization, which can in turn enhance their confidence, sense of achievement and self-worth.



The unique part of using art and illustration as part of a teaching strategy for students with learning disabilities is that it can be modified for any situation. For example, some students may be English Language Learners, and have no disability. However, teachers can still use graphics, visual aids, and interactive word walls to help these students become more proficient in English. Some students may have learning disabilities such as ADHD, dyslexia, or autism. While these students may struggle in certain areas, they may thrive in an art classroom. This is where they are able to express themselves to the fullest or simply engage in an activity that helps ease some of the learning anxieties that come with LDs. There are endless ways to incorporate art and illustration into any classroom, and that flexibility is what makes it so effective.



Students that struggle to communicate through spoken or written language often find that they can better express themselves through art. Activities involving art and illustration can also be done in group settings to help build social skills for students who may lack them due to a LD.



## Art and Language

For English Language Learners, the combination of visual arts and language learning work to complement each other. Presenting art alongside language proves to be an effective strategy in helping ELL students become more fluent and familiar with English. Visual stimulation helps students remember written content better as well.

## Student Populations That Can Benefit

- Students with autism
- Students with dysgraphia
- Students with physical impairments
- Students with ADHD
- Students that are ELL
- Students in general education
- And many other students with varying LDs

Students with physical disabilities may have problems with fine motor skills. Because art can be made through many different mediums, it allows the teacher to cater to a diverse group of students. This gives students with varying disabilities an opportunity to engage in similar activities that are modified to best suit their needs.



## INTERACTIVE WORD WALLS

Create a tool to increase science vocabulary in five easy steps.

By Julie Jackson and Rose Narvaez



## Interactive Word Walls

Word walls are a common tool teachers use to help students learn and retain vocabulary. Interactive word walls are similar; however, they involve more activity and visual aids for students. This increased engagement can help students in general education and inclusive classrooms.



*The most important lesson students can learn from visual arts is not the art knowledge or techniques, but a taste of how enjoyable life can be.*



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