

Multiple Tasks Within Activities For Students With Short Attention Spans

Some of our students may have rather short attention spans. It may be beneficial to have these students participate in a variety of ways within a specific activity. For example, within a 40-minute art activity, the student may participate in various 10 minute tasks, which all relate to the activity the class is engaged in. The following are some examples for a sample art activity.

Activities Within An Art Activity

- The student uses the Step-by-Step Communicator to move around the classroom and comment on other classmates' art work (10 min.)
- The student uses sponges with paint on theme related stencils (as shown in the picture below) to paint. Choices can be made regarding colours used. (10 min.)
- The student helps by handing out some of the materials at the beginning of the activity, either in a wheelchair, walker, or with assisted walking, depending on the mobility of the student. (10 min.)
- The student plays related theme music with a switch and the AbleNet Powerlink. (e.g., sounds of whales if painting fish) (10 min.)
- The student can help to clean up towards the end of the art activity by beginning to collect materials or tools. (10 min.)
- The student can begin washing some of the tools (e.g., paintbrushes, objects for print making, etc.) (10 min.)



Many students will stay more focused on their tasks if those tasks are shorter and continue to change within the activity.