BISONBRIDGE
BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS

🧩 Common Preschool Accommodations & Supports

🌱 What Are Accommodations?

Accommodations are **changes to the way activities or routines are done** to help your child participate, learn, and feel successful. They don't change what your child is expected to learn — just how they get there.

In preschool, accommodations often look like **small adjustments** that make a big difference in helping children thrive.

🔍 Accommodations vs. Modifications vs. Tailored Instruction

Understanding the difference can help you know what to ask for and what your child is receiving.

Term	What It Means	Example
Accommodation	A change in *how* a child learns or participates	Using a visual schedule or allowing extra response time
Modification	A change in *what* a child is expected to learn or do	Fewer questions on a worksheet or simpler learning goals
Tailored Instruction / Intervention	Special teaching methods or strategies to support specific learning needs	Using small-group instruction to work on speech sounds

Preschool IEPs usually focus on accommodations and services, but may include modifications or targeted instruction when needed.

🧸 Common Accommodations You Might See in Preschool

📖 For Communication:

- Visual schedules that show the day in pictures
- First/Then cards to explain routines
- Giving extra time to respond to questions
- Using simple or shortened directions

🧠 For Attention or Behavior:

- Shorter, more frequent tasks or play rotations
- Movement breaks (e.g., jumping, stretching, wall pushes)
- A calm space to regroup if overwhelmed
- Positive reinforcement for participation and effort

👐 For Sensory or Motor Needs:

- Fidgets or sensory tools at circle time
- Alternate seating (wobble stool, carpet square)
- Help opening containers or using utensils at snack time
- Extra time for transitions between activities

👫 For Social Skills and Independence:

- Modeling or practicing how to join play with peers
- Visual or verbal reminders of expected behaviors
- Picture cues for routines like washing hands or packing up
- Peer buddy systems for activities or lining up

💡 What's the Difference Between an Accommodation and a Service?

- **Accommodations** = how learning happens (e.g., using pictures to support understanding)
- **Services** = what support is given (e.g., speech therapy, special education instruction)

Your child may have one, both, or a combination depending on their needs.

💬 What Other Parents Wish They Knew

- “Accommodations weren’t fancy — just consistent support that worked.”
- “Once I understood how they helped my child join in, I could use similar ideas at home.”
- “I thought it had to be high-tech, but a picture chart was the biggest help.”

📝 Parent Reflection Space

Use these questions to think about what your child needs to feel successful each day.

- What parts of the day seem hardest for my child?
- What helps them stay focused or calm?
- How does my child best understand instructions — through words, pictures, or practice?
- What ideas here could help at home too?

📎 Sources

- Kansas State Department of Education. (2023). *Early Childhood Special Education Toolkit.* Retrieved from https://www.ksde.org/
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B. (2004). Retrieved from https://sites.ed.gov/idea/
- National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations. (2023). *Preschool Supports and Accommodations.*

🛡️ Important Reminder

This handout reflects common preschool practices in Kansas. Always work with your child’s IEP team or early childhood provider to decide what supports are most helpful for your child.