



**SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

Clever Schools and Clever Homes create clever kids- best practice for supporting all students particularly those with learning difficulties

Our tips are posted daily and include strategies for teachers and parents. They are not mutually exclusive.

Clever Byte #6: Attentional Problems - Byte 2: Managing distractibility: strategies to help students focus on the task at hand

Byte 2: Managing distractibility: strategies to help students focus on the task at hand

Limit visual and auditory distractions

Class based strategies

- reduce materials on the walls to essentials: timetable, rosters, charts needed for daily reference
- Display student work outside the classroom
- Keep class animals outside the classroom

Strategies for individuals

Before implementing a strategy, discuss it with the student. They may have suggestions for tweaking the idea to make it more effective, they may have strategies that they think will work better for them and (the bottom line) if they feel uncomfortable with your strategy, it won't work anyway!

Present strategies as a privilege and make them available to all students, to avoid stigma

- The student may be happy to wear earphones
- Record lessons/instructions so the student can replay them through headphones
- Sit at a screened or single desk for some lessons
- Sit near positive role models to reduce distractions from other students with diverting behaviours
- Decide on a signal such as teacher touching their chin to remind the student/s to focus
- Maintain eye contact when giving instructions
- Limit distractions on the desk e.g. one pencil not six