



Making Accommodations Make Sense  
Betsy Furler – For All Abilities  
Texas AHEAD 2023

Recommended Apps/Software:

1. Microsoft OneNote – **OneNote by Microsoft:** [onenote.com](https://onenote.com) OneNote can be used on a computer, phone, or tablet. In OneNote, you can organize typed notes, scanned papers, audio recordings, video recordings and drawings within virtual notebooks and folders. Immersive Reader App within OneNote adds text to speech and allows you to listen to any text stored in the app.
2. Read&Write from TextHelp – <https://www.texthelp.com/products/read-and-write-education/> Read&Write is a software tool that help with tasks like text to speech, definitions of words while online, researching assignments and proofing written work.
3. Bookshare – <https://www.bookshare.org> Bookshare gives students access to a large library of ebooks in audio, audio + highlighted text, braille, large font, and other formats.
4. Notion - <https://affiliate.notion.so/6zokteuuz14e> Notion is very similar to Trello and Asana but has more features. It is great for breaking down projects into smaller tasks, setting alarms and reminders, storing scanned paperwork, and setting benchmarks or due dates.
5. iBreathe by Jade Lizard Software - <https://www.jadelizardsoftware.com/ibreathe> This app guides you through deep breathing exercises. Breathing exercises are great way to boost attention and reduce stress.
6. Focus To Do - <https://www.focustodo.cn/> The app, Focus To-Do Focus Timer & Task by Shenzhen Tomato Software, is a great app to use to implement the Pomodoro technique to increase focus and productivity by taking frequent breaks. This app will also help with procrastination.
7. Focus Mate – <https://www.focusmate.com/> The Focus Mate service matches you with accountability partners to get focused work done on Zoom or other teleconferencing platforms.
8. Reminders on iPhone -The Reminders App is great for remembering appointments and remembering to take the items you need for school and work (or just life). Alarms can be set by time or location.
9. Google Keep - [keep.google.com](https://keep.google.com) The Google Keep App is like the Reminders App but is available for all devices.
10. Explain Everything Whiteboard - <https://explaineverything.com> We recommend the interactive whiteboard app, Explain Everything, for short recordings of any new task that a student needs to learn. The video can contain photos, PDFs, and voice over.



Strategies:

1. Assign members for group assignments – allow solo work if possible.
2. Allow use of earbuds, ear plugs, or headphones when needed – especially during tests.
3. Ability to take tests in a smaller or individual environment.
4. Schedule periodic check ins for large projects.
5. Encourage student to come in during office hours to review syllabus and explain any special circumstances.
6. Exception to attendance policy. This needs to be clearly defined.
7. Set expectations clearly about attendance and expectations on late assignments.
8. Access to class notes or recorded lectures.
9. Ability to audio record class lectures. Audio recording can be done in OneNote.
10. Strategic use of calendars and reminders.
11. Allow to leave the classroom if needed.
12. Extended timelines for assignments.
13. Consider allowing an Incomplete with time to make up the course work – especially helpful for short-moderate term illnesses, concussions etc.
14. Lighting changes.
15. Set structured schedule for the entire day (especially helpful with neurodiversity or mental health challenges).
16. Strategic use of music while studying – consider a class playlist on Spotify.

\* For full disclosure, we participate in affiliate partnerships, so when you sign up with our links, you also help support For All Abilities!

Thanks for attending my session at Texas AHEAD 2023!  
Contact me at [betsy@forallabilities.com](mailto:betsy@forallabilities.com) with any questions or to get  
a copy of my PowerPoint.