

Typical and Atypical Development

**Scenarios**

In the following scenarios, students are exhibiting one of the three types of atypical development: linguistic, physical, or cognitive. Students have not been diagnosed as needing special accommodations, so they do not have an IEP or 504 plan in place.

**Scenario 1: Linguistic**

Ashley and Essmae are third graders. Ashley is an English language learner who is one year below grade level in reading and writing. The only language spoken in her home is Spanish. Essmae’s native language is English. She is also one year below grade level in reading and writing. Both Ashley and Essmae struggle with reading comprehension, but while Ashley is behind in vocabulary development, Essmae’s vocabulary is advanced for her age. Both girls struggle to form complete sentences while writing, but Ashley does a better job sounding out words she is unfamiliar with.

**Scenario 2: Physical**

Steven and Jorge are 6 year olds in first grade. Steven is having trouble gripping and holding his pencil and creating accurate marks. He does not have sufficient control over holding his writing utensil. Jorge is proficient in using a pencil correctly and accurately making marks on his paper; however, he is left-handed and sometimes his hand gets in the way and his letters lean to the left to the point of unreadable.

**Scenario 3: Cognitive**

Peter and Cam are both seventh grade students. Cam struggles with using critical thinking skills and consistently gives only basic responses to questions in class. Peter struggles to problem solve and gets set on one method that he will not deviate from. Both enjoy learning when there is activity involved but need assistance in getting started and keeping motivated during difficult parts of the activity.

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| **Typical and Atypical Development Chart** | | |
| Scenario 1  Linguistic | **Typical Milestones**: *Research typical linguistic milestones of a student in the grade level scenario and add them below.* | **Proposed Strategies**: *How would you address this issue in your classroom?* |
|  | Strategy 1:  Strategy 2: |
| **Atypical Example**: *What are the atypical linguistic characteristics of the student in the scenario?* |
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| Scenario 2  Physical | **Typical Milestones**: *Research typical physical milestones of a student in the grade level scenario and add them below.* | **Proposed Strategies**: *How would you address this issue in your classroom?* |
|  | Strategy 1:  Strategy 2: |
| **Atypical Example:** *What are the atypical physical characteristics of the student in the scenario?* |
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| Scenario 3  Cognitive | **Typical Milestones**: *Research typical cognitive milestones of a student in the grade level scenario and add them below.* | **Proposed Strategies**: *How would you address this issue in your classroom?* |
|  | Strategy 1:  Strategy 2: |
| **Atypical Example**: *What are the atypical cognitive characteristics of the student in the scenario?* |
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**References**