

Active Learning and Students who are Deafblind

All students can learn! Active learning is an approach developed by Lilli Nielsen to promote the development of individuals who have multiple disabilities, including visual impairment and deafblindness. It can be effective with many students but is designed for those who are learning at a 0–48-month developmental level, regardless of chronological age.

Key Points of Active Learning

- **Active participation** – The student initiates and actively participates in the activity without prompting using their own movements.
- **Repetition** – The student has opportunities to repeat their actions many times to learn new skills and concepts.
- **Developmentally Appropriate** – The student interacts with materials in developmentally appropriate ways with opportunities to explore and expand on their skills and knowledge.
- **Reinforcing** – The environment is thoughtfully set up using materials that are accessible and motivating for the student.
- **Limited Interruptions** – The student has opportunities to practice skills and explore concepts without interruptions from others.

Dynamic Learning Circle

Stage 1: The student becomes aware of and interested in an object, activity, sensory experience, or person in the environment.

Stage 2: The student is curious which leads to action, repetition, imitation, experimentation, exploration, and sharing experiences.

Stage 3: The student has learned what they need from the activity. It is no longer challenging or interesting.

Stage 4: The student is ready to expand on their learning and experience new challenges.

