Examples of Nonlinguistic Interventions

To address the academic problems students may encounter on language mediated tasks in school; it may be beneficial if lesson plans, school-based interventions, IEPs and parental activities utilize teacher &/or student initiated nonlinguistic strategies, like the following (Marzano) effective strategies:

1. Making physical models of the subject or content under study – These concrete representations of the knowledge being learned (e.g., models of the solar system, skeletons, terrariums, etc.), creates a mental image of the knowledge in the student’s mind.

2. Generating mental pictures of subject or content under study, as the following exemplify:
   b. Ask students to imagine he/she is a person in a novel, history, science, etc. and then ask how they would feel and address problems this person, or group of people encountered.
   c. Using mental imagery. Good readers often form mental pictures, or images, as they read. Readers (especially younger readers) who visualize during reading understand and remember what they read better than readers who do not visualize. Help your students learn to form visual images of what they are reading. For example, urge them to picture a setting, character, or event described in the text. For some students, keeping drawing implements and paper close by when reading can be useful so that they draw those concrete visual images rather than having to visualize them in their minds.

3. Drawing pictures and pictographs (symbolic pictures) of the subject or content under study. This can be customized for a particular subject (e.g. Science - the solar system; Geography - a map; Language Arts/Spelling – new words learned). Since the Visual and Performing Arts are one New Jersey’s Core Curriculum Content Standards, utilizing art projects, can facilitate these activities, as well as curriculum integration.

4. Engaging in kinesthetic activities – Physical movement associated with specific knowledge generates a mental image in the mind of the learner. Since the Visual and Performing Arts, as well as Health and Physical Education are both New Jersey’s Core Curriculum Content Standards, utilizing the performing arts, as well as physical education activities can assist in nonlinguistic teaching and learning activities, as well as facilitating curriculum integration. The following are examples of kinesthetic activities, which can assist teaching and learning:
   a. Lesson on radius, diameters, and circles – one outstretched arm represents a radius, both outstretched arms represent a diameter, and then turning around represents the circle.
   b. Lesson on measurement – students holding hands around a tree and then stepping back from the tree and forming a straight line helps students concretize the concept of circumference. “This tree is 4 students around, while that tree is three students around.”
   c. Beginning reading and writing activities, where student writes letters and words in the air or groups of students come together with large printed letters to “spell out” a word together.
   d. Physically acting out or dramatizing subject or content under study.

5. Creating graphic organizers of subject or content under study – Graphic organizers are known by different names, such as maps, webs, graphs, charts, frames, clusters, or semantic maps, and organizers. They are very flexible and can be used in a variety of teaching and learning activities, limited only by the teacher’s resources and the student’s needs. Because they utilize both nonlinguistic (shapes and arrows, or charts and graphs to represent relationships) and linguistic representations (words and phrases), graphic organizers are relatively easy for the teacher and student to connect to academics and/or transition students from visual to linguistic learning. Teachers can use more or less labeling based on the needs of a student and the teacher’s own
creativity and familiarity with the process. The attached hyperlinked resources show how Inspiration Software's templates can assist in teaching and learning New Jersey's Core Core Curriculum Content Standards.