

## Strategies to Assist With Written Expression:

- 1 . Allow extra time for the student to complete written assignments or reduce the length of writing assignment.
- 2 . Writing skills may improve if the student first says out loud what he/she means, and then writes what was just said.
- 3 . If tests or assignments that require extensive writing can not be avoided, allow the student to give responses orally or recorded on tape.
- 4 . Do not over utilize true/false, matching or short answer assignments and tests. Written expression will improve with practice, but be alert for increasing frustration.
- 5 . Encourage the student to try creative writing such as poetry or song writing. These efforts should not be graded for spelling, accuracy, etc., but rather may serve to improve the student's attitude toward writing tasks.
- 6 . Encourage the student to keep a daily journal or diary documenting the events of the day.
- 7 . Set up an arrangement with friends or relatives to send letters to the student so that he/she will write to them in return. Alternatively, find a pen pal for the student.
- 8 . Accept the student's written work, but offer the opportunity to improve the grade by editing the work. Focus on accuracy of grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- 9 . Urge the student to "dress up" written work by adding adjectives and adverbs.
- 10 Expand the student's vocabulary by presenting several new words per day, and have the student use those words in daily language.
- 11 Teach the student to organize his/her thoughts in outline or graphic form before beginning to write them down.
- 12 Most students write the same way that they speak. Utilize strategies to improve oral language skills.
- 13 If he/she is more comfortable doing so, allow the student to print or use all capital letters when writing.
- 14 If the student consistently reverses letters, write the word "bed" on a card attached to the desk top so that he/she can refer to it as needed for a reminder.
- 15 Develop a personal spelling dictionary for the student and include words with letter reversals that he/she consistently demonstrates.
- 16 For some students, cursive writing discourages letter reversals.
- 17 Place a number line and alphabet in plain view of the student.
- 18 If the student tries to squeeze too many words on one line, highlight a margin about one inch on the right of the paper so that he/she can more easily anticipate the edge of the paper.
- 19 Let the student work in a group so that he/she can contribute ideas and rely on others to write the results on behalf of the whole group.
- 20 Excuse the student from writing on the blackboard in front of the class.
- 21 Have the student write about familiar topics or topics that are interesting to him/her (so long as the topics are not inappropriate).
- 22 To help sequence events, write (or have the student write) related sentences on index cards and then arrange them in the correct order.
- 23 As much as possible, eliminate distractions from the environment while the student is writing. Have the student complete a writing assignment without interruptions.