

# School Professional's Guide to Dysgraphia

Share with your colleagues



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# Introduction



Welcome & Congratulations,

Inside you will find several resources and tools that will proactively equip you to help colleagues. Share this flyer with them.

Share the parent flyer with your student's parents.

If you have any questions, schedule a call  
<https://www.cheridotterer.com/contact/>

Enjoy!

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# IEP goal suggestions

## IEP

### Goals for writing

Goals are designed to be individualized. However, there are two goals that impact every aspect of writing: **Legibility and Speed.**

If these two goals are not addressed, all other aspects of written expression will be impacted.

Written Expression includes:

- Spelling
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Sentence Structure
- Organization
- Clarity

### Why can't the diagnosis of dysgraphia be mentioned in an IEP meeting?

First, dysgraphia is a medical term. It is not recognized in the educational community. When going into an IEP, help parents understand why you cannot put this term on the report. Ask them for a detailed description of what they are seeing about handwriting.

Ask them "What do your concerns surrounding writing look like? Too often misunderstanding occurs because a parent doesn't feel heard. A professional uses the professional terms that parents don't understand.

### Report what is happening in the classroom.

- Speak in layman's terms.
- Do not assume a parent or other members of the team understand what you are talking about when you use a term like dysgraphia.
- Explain what is happening in the classroom.
- Explain how the interaction between school and home have occurred. Leave out the emotion.

Need more assistance.

Your next best step is to go to and leave a message. One of our team members will respond within 48 hours.

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# Symptoms of Dysgraphia

Avoid Handwriting

Awkward Pencil Grasp

Awkward Letter Appearance

Breaks Pencils Often

Difficulty Managing Margins

Hand cramps and pain

Intensely Watch Their Own Hand Write

Pencil Pressure is too light

Poor Fine Motor Skills

Unorganized Paragraphs

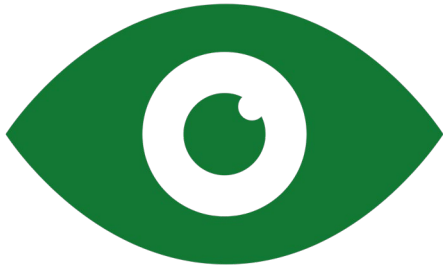
Unusual hand or paper position

Written Expression Does Not Meet Expectations





# Types of Dysgraphia



## Visual-Spatial Dysgraphia

Difficulty identifying symbols: letters, numbers, shapes, etc.



## Motor Dysgraphia

Decreased control, accuracy, precision, and speed of motor functions impacting writing



## Memory Dysgraphia

Decreased ability to access procedures and describing items. High levels of negative emotional memory.



# Types of Dysgraphia



## Word Formation Dysgraphia

Difficulty with spelling



## Sentence Formation Dysgraphia

Difficulty with sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation.



## Paragraph Formation Dysgraphia

Difficulty with creative or technical paragraph organization and clarity.



# Handwriting Tips



Listen to your student.

Nothing is more frustrating than not being heard.

<b>Visual-Spatial Dysgraphia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do word search grids, but look for a single letter, not words.</li><li>• Use colors to highlight writing lines.</li></ul>
<b>Motor Dysgraphia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete mazes.</li><li>• Use golf pencils.</li></ul>
<b>Memory Dysgraphia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Play Simon.</li><li>• Use Flash Cards.</li></ul>
<b>Word Formation Dysgraphia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Try the Body Sentence Alphabet.</li><li>• Spell to a metronome.</li></ul>
<b>Sentence Formation Dysgraphia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use index cards with one word per sentence. Have your student put the cards in order.</li><li>• Highlight parts of speech by color.</li></ul>
<b>Paragraph Formation Dysgraphia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Same as above but use whole sentences per card.</li><li>• Create a writing binder.</li></ul>

Find out more information about the Body Sentence Alphabet and Writing Binders on my YouTube Channel

<https://tinyurl.com/DysgraphiaConsultant>



# Resources



## Parent Resource Page

<https://www.cheridotterer.com/parent-resources/>



## Professionals Resource Page

<https://www.cheridotterer.com/professional-resources/>



## Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.cheridotterer.com/faq/>





# Work with Cheri



## Keynotes/Workshops

<https://www.cheridotterer.com/speaker>



## Dysgraphia Method

<https://www.cheridotterer.com/ddm/>



## Masterclass Series

<https://www.cheridotterer.com/masterclass/>



# Our Relentlessly Optimistic Leader



Cheri has first-hand experience both as a student with dysgraphia and as an occupational therapist who's helped thousands of students overcome this invisible, traumatic, learning disability.

She is an international dysgraphia consultant, author, and speaker who trains child development professionals to recognize invisible learning disabilities through professional development opportunities to help students overcome trauma and shame associated with their disability and rewrite their story through grace.

She is the author of the Amazon Bestseller, *Handwriting Brain-Body Disconnect*. She has been an occupational therapist for 25 years and has owned a school-based private practice for 10 years. She has been adjunct faculty of Penn State, Alvernia, and Misericordia Universities and has guest lectured at several other colleges. She lives with her husband of 30 years. They have two adult children.

Along with her team, she encourages you to embark on a journey to rewrite the story of today's children. Look into their future today through *research, professional and personal development*.

Rewrite the future of learning to hand write!

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