

# Accommodations for Written Expression

There are many interventions that can help kids improve their handwriting. But when it comes to day-to-day assignments and classroom activities, kids need ways to help them keep up, understand the material, and stay on track with the pace of the classroom.

These ideas can help kids with note-taking, journal writing, math assignments, and test-taking.

## 1 || Fill-in-the-blank format

Provide journal pages that have prompt sentences pre-printed on the page with words for the child to fill in. For note-taking, provide pre-printed notes with blanks for kids to fill in key words.

## 2 || Highlighted lines

Highlighted writing lines can provide a visual prompt to encourage better alignment and sizing.

## 3 || Boxes and lines

Open writing spaces can be difficult for struggling writers. Add boxes or writing lines to open spaces to give a visual structure to the task.

## 4 || Visual and tactile guides

Cut a window out of a plastic folder that is the appropriate size for shorter written responses on worksheets or tests (e.g. spelling tests). Have kids place the window on top of the blanks on the paper, writing inside the cutout.

## 5 || Adaptive paper

Use paper with raised lines, highlighted lines, shaded lines, or boxes to provide a visual cue for spacing, sizing, and alignment.

## 6 || Graph paper

Use graph paper or paper with larger boxes to help kids organize and line up math problems. Kids can also use graph paper to help provide a structure for writing letters, words, and sentences.

## 7 || Voice recorder

For older kids, using a voice memo recorder on a tablet or smartphone can be a good strategy to replace taking notes or as a supplement to note-taking.

## 8 || Close model

Providing a nearpoint model of the information being presented can be a good strategy for kids who need to copy rather than writing on their own.

## 9 || Dictating

Many kids will need to dictate their responses to be written by someone else. They may then be able to copy the responses onto their paper.

## 10 || Self-editing

Providing a written self-editing checklist can be helpful for some kids to be able to go back and check their sizing, spacing, alignment, overall legibility, and punctuation.

## 11 || Word bank

Providing a word or phrase bank can help kids narrow down the correct response to a question on their paper and gives them a model to copy from.

## 12 || Adjust time and volume of writing

Many kids benefit from increased time to complete written expression activities and/or decreased expectations for how much they need to write.

## 13 || Highlighting notes

Rather than taking notes, provide kids with a pre-printed version of the notes and a highlighter so they can highlight the information as it's being presented.

## 14 || Cooperative writing

Kids can team up on writing assignments so each does the work for a different part of the assignment (outlining/brainstorming, writing, proofreading/editing).

## 15 || Make it hands-on

Many kids struggle with pencil/paper tasks and can benefit from assignments that are adapted for a more hands-on approach. For example - instead of a word bank, try placing small stickers or pieces of masking tape with the words written on them on the child's desk. He can then peel them off to place them in the correct spaces on the page.