

## **Types of Learning Disabilities**

### **Written Output Disorder**

A disorder resulting from problems in poor writing skills which are significantly below what is normal considering the student's age, intelligence, and education. Problem is primarily with output rather than input. They do not have difficulty in formulation what they need to write but rather have mechanical or technical problems getting information down on paper despite high levels of linguistic ability. Signs of this disorder are when the individual has great difficulty improving his/her work, either in terms of accuracy or speed.

EX: Spent almost an entire year teaching him/her cursive writing each day through a multi-sensory approach, he/she would often forget how to write the letters and will have difficulty keeping the letters between the lines.

When printing, he/she alternates between UPPERCASE and lowercase letters

### **Some Common Signs Are:**

- Anxiety around writing tasks or opposition
- Poorly formed printing, difficulty learning to write cursively
- Forgetting to use capitals and punctuation correctly despite knowing the "rules"
- Writing all the way up to the edge of a page – seeming not to understand the physical limitations of the page space
- Very large letters or very small letters or what looks like trying to drive the pencil right through the page – all symptoms of "finger agnosia" where the student cannot get enough feedback from their fingers about the pencil and so the grip tighter and tighter, losing control.
- Resistance to writing tasks that goes above and beyond the "norm" for that child – this can include a refusal to show math work.