



# **I Hate to Write: Tips for Helping Students with Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders Increase Achievement, Meet Academic Standards, and Become Happy, Successful Writers**

*By Cheryl Boucher, MSEd, OTR, Kathy Oehler, MS, CCC-SLP*

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The writing process requires a high level of coordination between various parts of the brain. In individuals with an autism spectrum disorder, the areas of the brain do not communicate effectively with each other, leading to great difficulty coordinating all the skills needed for writing. As a result, many students HATE TO WRITE! Written in a format that appeals to readers brief, practical and to the point this aptly named book focuses on the four areas of writing that are most problematic for students with ASD: language, organization, sensory and visual-motor skills organized under topics such as Getting Started, Knowing What to Write, Getting Stuck, Misunderstanding the Directions, and many more. Take it and use it worksheets make the task of teaching writing easy and fun. What's more, it is aligned with the National Common Core Standards. Strategies are appropriate for students K-12 and beyond.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

In this book, Cheryl Boucher and Kathy Oehler combine their expertise as an occupational therapist and speech therapist along with years of real-life experience with students on the autism spectrum. They have aligned their strategies and helpful tips with the National Common Core State Standards and designed them using evidence-based practices. Any professional or family member interested in improving the writing skills of students on the spectrum in a manner that promotes success and engagement should read this book. It is both creative and practical. Quite simply, it is brilliant. --Cathy Pratt, BCBA-D

I Hate to Write is a fabulous resource for teachers and parents alike. The format is particularly outstanding. Each topic includes Teacher Concerns, the specific kinds of comments teachers typically make with regard to writing challenges, Why, an explanation of the research on ASD that may explain why problems occur, and finally, Teaching Strategies, which are very specific and practical. The book addresses the basics of writing a paragraph, editing one's own work, and also provides templates for writing book reports, research papers, and letters. Without question, you will want to add I Hate to Write to your teaching tools. --Diane Adreon, EdD

I was excited to read I Hate to Write. As an educator, I am always looking for innovative and easy-to-use ideas to use with students with autism. And as a parent of a 22-year-old son on the autism spectrum, I would have been thrilled to have discovered this valuable, realistic book 10 years ago. Thank you for gathering these incredible strategies in one book! --Cheri O Day

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### **About the Author**

Cheryl Boucher, MS, OTR, has worked for the last 18 years as a school-based occupational therapist in a large Indianapolis school district. In her role as an OTR, she has had extensive experience working with students with autism and many other special needs. She consults with both teaching staff and parents to support students with autism and other special needs and has worked at a pediatric outpatient clinic servicing children with autism and sensory processing disorder. Cheryl also has experience with assistive technology evaluation and services. Cheryl has spoken nationally on writing strategies to support academic achievement

and sensory processing for students with autism and related disorders. Finally, Cheryl has an awesome 14-year-old nephew with autism. Kathy Oehler, MS, CCC-SLP, has worked with individuals with ASD for more than 30 years. In her role as autism consultant for a large urban school district, she has helped teachers, parents, and administrators understand and meet the needs of students with ASD and a variety of related disorders. As a member of her district behavior support team, Kathy has worked with educational teams to help them recognize the impact writing challenges can have on behavior and academic performance. Kathy is a national speaker, helping teachers and parents meet the educational needs of students with ASD and related disorders. She recently presented workshops to help school personnel implement writing strategies to increase academic achievement.

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