

# ***Teaching Strategies that Help Students with Language-Learning Disabilities***

1. Provide short, simple direction in both oral and written form
2. Give the student concrete examples of desired outcomes (models to imitate)
3. Don't assume that directions are understood just because the student says "I understand;" ask the student to repeat or rephrase directions
4. Break complex assignments into small, sequential "baby steps"
5. Use diagrams and other visual cues for comprehension
6. Turn large, complex, long-term projects into a series of smaller, short-term, sub-assignments so that progress toward the final objective can be monitored and feedback and reinforcement given
7. Keep instructions and problems simple with only a single direction or unknown variable present at a time
8. Provide extra practice and (creative) repetition of new skills
9. Link linguistic information to concrete understanding using pictures, films, field trips, and concrete objects
10. Increase generalization by demonstrating and practicing a skill in various contexts
11. Introduce new information and skills only when concepts already presented show significant mastery
12. Keep progress charts and graphs (for **PRIVATE** discussions with the student—don't compare special needs students to their peers publicly—**"homework champ" charts imply a "homework chump"**)
13. Reinforce every positive step forward, even the little ones
14. Provide space between each line of written text (double-space)
15. Allow for appropriate release of physical energy with frequent task breaks
16. Know that special needs children WILL require more of your personal attention and be prepared to PROVIDE that attention.