

## Your A B C 's

Adapted by the Michigan ACLD from a paper by Mary Beth Fry

- A**ccept your child's limitations, but do not resign yourself to future limitations.
- B**uild his confidence.
- C**ooperate with rather than reject programs designed by professionals.
- D**irect his attention—perhaps a little extra on your part will improve listening, understanding and response.
- E**xpect him to require more than the usual amount of time for almost everything and make allowance for time.
- F**orget about unfair comparisons of school progress with children of friends, sisters, brothers, relatives, and neighbors.
- G**overn his discipline at home by that expected of siblings—permissiveness is not a kindness for your child. He will resent peers now and you later.
- H**elp him to take pride in doing those things he can do well—even if it is only writing a story about garbage.
- I**nstitute a regular normal program of outside activities. Maybe he can excel in other than school activities.
- J**ohnny can learn—your school will be glad to make recommendations for special help—ask how you can help too.
- K**eeep directions simple.
- L**et your child set his own pace in new learning situations at home.
- M**ake certain that you stand ready to help him at all times.
- N**ever give up hope for possible progress.
- O**pen every possible door for development.
- P**atience and perseverance are two attributes necessary for all parents.
- Q**uiet—all children need some.
- R**equest and read available materials concerning your child's particular problems.
- S**ocial acceptance is highly important to your child's welfare outside home.
- T**each the concrete rather than the abstract.
- U**nderstand the importance a routine plays in your child's life.
- V**erbalize as little as possible—quite simply—don't talk too much.
- W**atch your language—your meanings and choice of words.
- X**-ray your own state of mind. You will find that your child will present an ever challenging personal problem to you as a parent—and have a
- Z**est for life and living that must not be denied that child. Make him have the “good feeling.”

Notice there is **NO** letter **Y** in this alphabet! If the Michigan Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (MACLD) can publish a pamphlet leaving the Y out of the alphabet, anybody can make a mistake and should not be made to feel ashamed of it. Let your student know that you know: Mistakes are opportunities to learn.