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Prologue:

## *A Note From the Authors*

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This manual is dedicated to every child who has ever been told, "Don't worry, in the future everything will be done on computers".

We would like to thank the staff and Board of Directors of Kenny REHAB for their support and efforts for this project; and Jill Spokojny, owner of The Abilities Center for initially publishing and promoting the program. We are also indebted to the following people without whose unselfish sharing of their professional knowledge and encouragement, the "Getting It Write" program could not have been developed: Gretchen Reeves, Marianne Lewandowski, Greg Seaman, Suzen Oliver, Lauren Hobson-Holland for layout and advice, Eileen Richter of Professional Development Programs for presenting professional conferences on the program, Don Holland for helping with printing and logistics, John Schrot for legal advice, and Therapro and Therapy Shoppe for promoting the book in their catalogs. Most importantly, we would like to thank our children Eric Audette, Christopher Audette, Benjamin Audette, David Karson, and Jeffrey Karson for their inspiration.

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## History

### *About the Program and Special Thanks*

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The authors would like to extend further thanks to those people who have used and promoted this program since the original publication by The Abilities Center, Inc. in 1998.

Special thanks goes to Nikki Rosen-Lieberman, MA, OTR who has traveled around the USA doing conferences on this method; and to Professional Development Programs of Minnesota for initially backing Nikki in these pursuits. Nikki is an occupational therapist from Ann Arbor, Michigan with a master's degree in early childhood education. She has been a pediatric and school therapist for 25 years. She is co-founder and past clinical director of The Abilities Center, Inc., a private therapeutic center for individuals with developmental disabilities in southeast Michigan. Nikki is certified in sensory integration and praxis (SIPT) testing, has pediatric neuro-developmental training (pediatric NDT), is a Feldenkrais® Practitioner, and infant massage instructor. Nikki's commitment to mentoring and educating others, and facilitation of community-based programming for individuals with special needs earned her the Distinguished Service Award from the Detroit Occupational Therapy Association in 1996.

Nikki has run the Getting It Write program for many years (even prior to publication) in schools, clinic and community-based settings, as well as mentored others to run the program. From her experiences working with and teaching others to use the Getting it Write program, Nikki contributed her ideas to both the first edition and this second edition of the Getting it Write manual. She has also developed a simplified screening test that works well with this program. Nikki teaches other therapists and

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professionals to use the Getting it Write program through professional workshop trainings. If you are interested in having a training session in your area, please contact her directly at (734) 995-1963. Further information about contacting Nikki can be found in the Resource List at the end of this book.

Another occupational therapist, Anna Yap, MRS, OTR, OTRP has used the program to design a research study as part of her requirements for her Master of Rehabilitation Science degree from the University of the Philippines. She graduated in 1992 with her BS in Occupational Therapy from the same university, worked two years in New York, USA at the Lavelle School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and returned to the Philippines to open her own pediatric therapy center. The results of her study are included here. We encourage further research along these lines. Anna can be contacted by email at [ayapotrp@starnet.ph](mailto:ayapotrp@starnet.ph).

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## Chapter 2

### *The Program*

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The philosophy and techniques of the *Getting It Write* program are based on an integration of a variety of occupational therapy sources, including: sensory integration theory, perceptual motor theory, developmental theory, cognitive theory, and various handwriting approaches. Please refer to the bibliography for further references.

Before acceptance into the program, each child is individually screened to determine appropriateness and identify individual problem areas. Either a printing or a cursive format is offered depending on the child's age, school expectancy, and parents' wishes. Through experience, it was determined that children going into the first or second grade should follow the printing format. Those going into higher grades did best to concentrate on cursive writing, realizing that functionally, some children may continue to print throughout their lives as their most legible means of quick written expression.

A prerequisite of the *Getting It Write* program is that the child has previously been exposed to or taught how to form the letters of the alphabet. The program may consist of a combination of some children working on printing while others work on cursive writing. The program as initially designed followed the D'Nealian or Modern Manuscript lettering system since that is what was being most commonly taught by the majority of local school districts during the time the program was developed. In this second edition, we have added a block lettering printing method as well. Instructors could also develop their own letter styles using the *Getting It Write* blank pages included as well as using our program sheets as a guide.