

## ***For Teachers:***

### **General Strategies for Improving Fluency in the Classroom**

#### ***For students with stuttering problems***

- Provide a slower rate of speech, pause frequently, slow down overall pace of conversation.
- Allow longer amount of time for student to respond verbally  
Think time..... Organization time..... Response time.....
- Ask questions that can be answered with relatively few words.
- Provide preparation time before calling on a student to read (i.e., give advanced notice, “Johnny please read the first page, then I’d like Tim to read the second page.” Tim is the stutterer.) Consider allowing students to read out loud in pairs (takes pressure off student who stutters and allows him/her to become more confident with practice.)
- When possible, allow for quiet practice time before requiring student to verbalize.
- Help all members of the class learn to take turns talking and listening. All students find it easier to talk when there are few interruptions and have the speaker’s attention.
- Communicate with the student. Mutually agree upon some strategies to help him/her in the classroom.
- Be aware of your non-verbal body language, maintain eye contact and be patient while the student tries to communicate a message to you. Try not to interrupt student while he/she is trying to tell you something.
- Focus on what is said, not how it was said.
- Try to decrease criticisms, rapid speech patterns and interruptions.
- If students tease, help student brainstorm some ideas on how to respond, try to talk to students who are doing the teasing and enlist their help, consult a counselor for suggestions on managing teasing.

#### **DO NOT:**

- Tell the student to “stop or slow down and take a breath”.
- Interrupt the student when he is talking.
- Complete words for the student or talk for him/her.
- Embarrass the student.