## FUNCTION OF DAILY PERSONAL STUDENT GOALS

## by Sheldon Braaten

**Personal** refers to the students' goals—not adults' goals for students. Students must learn how to express personally relevant needs and wants as goals that can be achieved. The adults' role is to teach them how to write reasonable and appropriate goals, to provide guidance and encouragement along with numerous opportunities to succeed, and to give frequent feedback on progress.

Expecting students to write personal goals daily helps...

- 1. students to focus on a specific behavior.
- 2. students know what goals are and how they can facilitate success.
- 3. students state their perceptions of personal needs and wants.
- 4. students learn to plan and organize priorities.
- 5. students develop a future orientation.
- 6. students develop a sense of responsibility and power over their own behavior.
- 7. students relate to other goals and objective set for them by adults (e.g. IEP).
- 8. students develop self-monitoring skills.
- 9. students to think more realistically.
- 10. staff provide a consistent introduction to the school day.
- 11. staff to attend to the student's disposition upon arrival in class.
- 12. staff plan appropriate responses to student's behavior.
- 13. provide a vehicle for ongoing dialogue with students.
- 14. reinforce written expression skills (e.g. spelling and sentence structure).
- 15. staff and students focus on progress and experiencing success.