

Paraeducator Practices

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A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers
Educational Equity for All



February 2017

Paraeducator Symbol



Just as the extra pair of wings enables the dragonfly to accomplish astounding aeronautic gymnastics, paraeducators have become the extra pair of hands that allows teachers to truly support and
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR EVERY STUDENT

STORAGE & ORGANIZATION HACKS FOR THE SPED CLASSROOM

Save space. Get rid of puzzle boxes and store puzzle pieces in pencil pouches.



Keep card games neat and organized by placing them in these awesome containers from the Dollar Tree.



Keep math manipulatives accessible by dividing them into small food storage containers

<http://www.missluluspeciald.com/2016/03/storage-organization-hacks-for-sped.html>

WISE GUYS

CREATIVITY FOR THE MODERN CLASSROOM

5 Steps to Erase Learned Helplessness

Students discover very quickly that if they don't do something, someone else will usually come along and do it for them, believing that the student cannot do it themselves. This develops learned helplessness.

1. Teach to the Learning Styles
2. The Parrot Approach
3. Think Alouds
4. Reality Check
5. Time to Time

Find out how to use these techniques with your students at: <https://goo.gl/X6wSU4>



1. [Angry Paper Toss](#)
 2. [Creating a Calm Down Box](#)
 3. [Deep Breathing Activities](#)
 4. [Angry Tornado](#)
 5. [The Tower:](#)
 6. [Anger Control Problem Solving Cards](#)
- <https://goo.gl/hDQ0mY>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

Special Education Training Series: Data - Taking Sample Data



<https://goo.gl/Q14vZt>

Procedures for Prompt Fading

by Sasha Long |

Prompts are ways we help our learners demonstrate new skills. We use prompts to get our students to greet a peer, flush the toilet, name the color blue, and clap their hands. Prompts are something we add to the situation because the natural or teaching cue was not enough to cause the student to respond. The natural cue of being finished using the toilet was not a strong enough reminder to flush the toilet so we added the verbal prompt, “flush the toilet” and the student now responds. Prompts are important but fading them is just as important. Prompt fading needs to be planned from the start and an integral and essential component to the plan. Unless you are committing to following that child around for the rest of his life and tell him to flush the toilet – prompt fading is essential.

Some rules for prompt fading:

- Plan it out from the start.
- Train your staff.
- Do it gradually.
- If incorrect responding begins, return to last prompt level.

How to fade prompts in Most to Least Prompting:

- **set criteria for changing prompts;** once your student hits a particular number of days or sessions or trials at a particular prompt level, fade to the next level; take data to track progress
- **once you hit the criteria move to the next type of prompt;** refer to our prompt hierarchy or order that is in Monday’s post. Move up the list to less and less intrusive prompts.
- **fade magnitude than switch prompt type;** before you switch from a gestural to a verbal prompt adjust the magnitude of the prompt. A dramatic point to an object is different that a nod of your head.

<http://theautismhelper.com/procedures-prompt-fading/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/HP7Yle>

Tips for Special Education Paraeducators and Inclusion Helpers

<https://goo.gl/kJRogN>

<https://paraprofessionalsguide.wikispaces.com/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The training series includes 6 modules: Challenging Behavior, Autism, Assistive Technology, Physical Disabilities, Working in Kindergarten Classrooms and Fade Plan Implementation. Viewers can select the modules that are most applicable to the students you are working with.

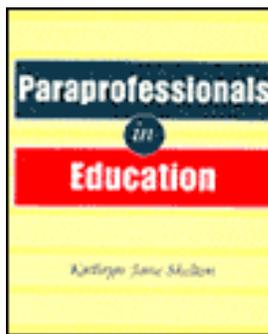
Some modules are broken into segments and the information builds upon one another. Powerpoint presentations are available to download prior to viewing each module for note taking purposes and to refer to while watching the videos.

Each video includes a brief introduction to provide the viewer with additional information.

We hope you find the Paraeducator Training Series helpful as you work with students with disabilities.

<http://www.aacps.org/specialed/paraeducators.asp>

RECOMMENDED READING & VIDEO



Paraprofessionals in Education /
Edition 1

by Kathryn Jane Skelton, Skelton

This new book offers paraeducator students important information on how to become an effective member of a successful teaching team. It presents job-seeking skills, getting

started as a paraeducator, daily routines and also covers legal issues, general child development, special education, classroom management and organization. With helpful suggestions and activities for enhancing the education of children of all ages, this book is a cutting edge textbook.