

Paraeducator Practices

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A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers
Educational Equity for All



May 2016

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



California School Employees Association



Classified School Employee Week

Classified School Employees:
Everyday Heroes

May 15—21, 2016

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!

Para-educator/Parent Training Packages

You may download the *PDF* document section by section, by clicking on the links below.

[Toilet Training \(Short Term\)](#)

[Eating and Drinking Skills](#)

[Play Skills](#)

<http://isesam.com/content/teachall/text/disable/programs/PPTPs.htm>

TEACHING IN A SAFE CLASSROOM:

A Health and Safety Tip Sheet for Teachers and Paraeducators

http://lohp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Tipsheet_1_Teachers_Paraeducators.pdf

Paraeducators in Schools:
Strengthening the Educational Team

**Paraeducators in Schools:
Strengthening the Educational Team Paperback – March 30, 2007**

by Anna Lou Pickett, Kent Gerlach, Robert Morgan, Marilyn Likins, Teri Wallace

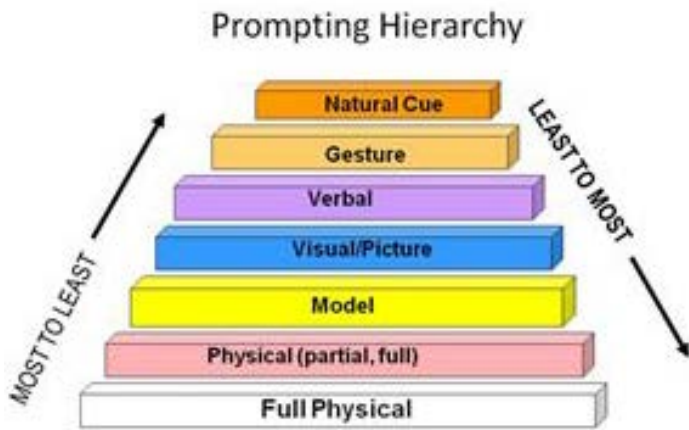
Pickett, Anna Lou

Note: This is not the actual book cover

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR ALL
Giving kids what they need to succeed.

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
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<http://www.educationequity4all.com/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Communicating with Students; Talking with Students

It is important that when we talk with students we are engaging in certain behaviors that facilitate openness and acceptance. When we actively use the recommendations listed below, students will tend to be more receptive to listening and communicating with us.

Here are some suggestions to use while communicating with students:

1. **Posture:** Try to make your posture mirror that of the students. It is helpful to have your shoulders squared with students and on about the same level so you are face-to-face. It is also helpful to have a slightly forward lean toward the student.
2. **Eye Contact:** Eye contact with students shows that you are interested in what they have to say.
3. **Facial Expression:** What is shown on your face should match what is on the child's. Smiling when the child is obviously sad would be an example of an incongruent facial expression.
4. **Distance:** Distance from the child shouldn't be too close or too distant; about 3-4 feet is the average. Standing too close can make the student uncomfortable, while standing too far away can indicate that you are disinterested in what the student is saying.
5. **Distracting Behaviors:** Distracting behaviors, such as playing with your hands, staring out the window, or doing something else while listening should be eliminated when talking to students or staff members.
6. **Your tone should match the child's.** It would be inappropriate to be loud if the child is in a quiet mood.

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

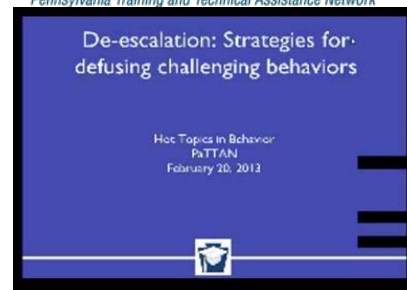
http://www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/resources/2013/june/educators-voice-6/edvoice06_03_paraprofessionals.pdf?la=en
<http://www.projectparticipate.org/handouts/TipsforParaeducators.pdf>
<http://woman.thenest.com/10-tips-paraeducators-14582.html>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Hot Topics in Behavior: De- Escalation: Strategies for Defusing Challenging Behaviors



Description: Knowing how to prevent and respond to challenging student behavior is important in maintaining a safe and secure educational environment. This session addresses: 1.) the role of the educator in an instance of escalation, 2.) strategies for manipulating the educational environment to prevent escalation, 3.) the phases of an escalation cycle, and 4.) effective de-escalation strategies.

http://www.pattan.net/Videos/Browse/Single/?code_name=hot_topics_in_behavior_deescalation

Strategies For Making Ethical Decisions

- **Publicity Test** – How would it feel if all of your relatives and friends knew what you did and it was reported on the front page of the newspaper?
- **Conscience Test** – Listen to your conscience.
- **Parent Perspective** – If your son or daughter were looking over your shoulder, would you be proud or disappointed by your action or inaction? If your child were in the same situation and asked for advice, what would you say?
- **Role Model Test** – What would someone you respect do or say in a similar situation? Make believe you are this person and proceed as he/she would.
- **Universality Test** – What if everybody did it? Would it be a good thing? This is an especially good test for these "insignificant" moral dilemmas.



The Starfish Story: one step towards changing the world

<https://eventsforchange.wordpress.com/2011/06/05/the-starfish-story-one-step-towards-changing-the-world/>