

# Paraeducator Practices

## Paraeducator Practices

A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers  
Educational Equity for All



December 2018

### 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**

### 13 WAYS TO AVOID POWER STRUGGLES

- 1 Develop a relationship early on.
- 2 Hide your frustrations.
- 3 Be kind and respectful.
- 4 Give the expectation and run.
- 5 Ignore what you can ignore.
- 6 Let the child get the last word.
- 7 Listen and validate.
- 8 Explain your reasoning
- 9 Give choice.
- 10 Be flexible.
- 11 Back out of a power struggle.
- 12 Compromise with a goal in mind.
- 13 Embrace the behaviors.

[www.thepathway2success.com](http://www.thepathway2success.com)  
**Pathway 2 SUCCESS**

Power struggles can be especially difficult with kids with ADHD, autism, oppositional-defiant disorder, and other social-emotional challenges.

If you find yourself needing more support with de-escalation strategies for kids and young adults, consider this De-escalation Strategies Guide with a detailed educator guide, sample scenarios, proactive strategies, and de-escalation techniques.

### Building Rapport and Moving to The Next Place in Student/Educator Relationships

Paraeducators have a unique relationship with a student. For some they may be the only other adult contact or translator for events in their day. But this does not mean you are their friend. You are an adult hired in a capacity to be a specific asset to a student in their educational process. You may have to help the student with health care or other self-care. There are times when you may have a student that requires a lot of supports for a variety of reasons relating to a disability.

Remember all things with students will take time. You're asking them to trust a strange adult. Go over, get in their height, maybe you will have to kneel. Offer your right hand to shake theirs and introduce yourself. Explain you are there to help them. Doesn't matter if the student can understand a word you say, this is how we demonstrate we are adults. This is how we keep the relationship professional

Connect with things that interest the student. Even if those are bad choices, the student makes the choice. Be consistent with rewards and punishments. Reward genuinely. Notice the things you want to have happen. This isn't to say you ignore the bad. Rudeness, off task behavior, causing grief with classmates all need to be addressed. Some privately, but always honestly.

Building a rapport with students still needs to be professionally acceptable. Speaking about drinking, drugs, or dangerous illegal activities should not be a way to build rapport with students. Your life, even if the student lives in the same apartment complex, should not unnecessarily cross with any student.

<http://blog.paraeducate.com/?p=452>

## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

# 17 Classroom Hacks That Actually Work in SPED



Practice putting things away in the correct order by simply taking a picture of what the put away bin should look like and taping it to the front of the bin.

@theartofed

<https://www.mrsdscorner.com/hacksforsped/>

### Social Media Tips for Educators

In the age of social media communication, educators often struggle to maintain clear professional and personal boundaries. The following recommendations will assist you to navigate social media as a professional educator.

Do not . . .	Do . . .
"friend" students on social media	set your personal privacy settings to the highest levels (but understand that posts can still be shared)
use language that is vulgar, discriminatory, inflammatory, or disparaging	know your district social media and technology policies
communicate privately with students via social media or texting	communicate with groups of students and families via text, through a professional account such as "Remind" (if district policy allows)
post information about students through a personal account	use a professional account to promote student activities and awards with permission (if district policy allows)
post pictures or statements that present your image as unprofessional	use social media to connect with other educators professionally, such as twitter #iaedchat

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oCuDrue4WLh5S-mVyyM9HlfO5BNUkqvX/view>

### Paraeducator-Parent Relationships

Parents and paraeducators sometimes share close relationships. A close parent-paraprofessional relationship is not always beneficial for the child's educational program. Strained parent paraprofessional relationships are not beneficial either. It's not uncommon for parents and students to become dependent on the paraeducator. Here are 6 Tips for Paraeducators from Ritu Chopra, Ph.D., Executive Director & Assistant Research Professor The PAR2A Center, University of Colorado Denver.

**Tip # 1: Know your Role**

**Tip # 2: Build a Stronger Paraeducator-Teacher Team**

**Tip # 3: Demonstrate Professional & Ethical Work Behaviors**

**Tip # 4: Demonstrate Healthy Professional Relationships with Parents**

**Tip # 5: Foster independence among students and families**

**Tip # 6: Follow Privacy & Confidentiality**

<https://goo.gl/5ybQhQ>

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.nea.org/home/72054.htm>

<https://goo.gl/RBHAh9>

<https://goo.gl/coiHTx>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Autism Spectrum Disorder for Paraprofessionals: Providing Effective Instruction and Supports.

<https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/paraprofessionals.cfm>



12/11/2018 8:30-11:30

A-5 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): What Every Paraeducator Should Know

*Presenter:* Dr. Scott Gutentag

Santa Ana USD, RCC Region 9 North

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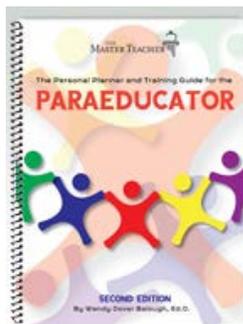
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<http://www.dcs-cde.ca.gov/prf/viewdate.html#dec>



The Personal Planner & Training Guide for the Paraeducator

This training guide teaches paraeducators proven strategies for working effectively with students and teachers. With space for notes throughout each chapter and several helpful forms included, this training guide gives paraeducators the tools they need to be successful.