

# Paraeducator Practices

## Paraeducator Practices

A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers  
Educational Equity for All



March 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**

### Finding a Response Mode

It is important to identify the best way for your student to show what they know in each lesson. Here are some options to consider:

- Point to the correct response when given an array
- Pull-off
- Eye gaze
- Show
- Write or type on computer
- Use material from the lesson
- verbal
- verbal with device
- touch, point to or grasp objects
- switches
- adapted computer &/or software/apps
- move/orient body
- pic symbols
- drawing/writing/markings

## Working With Students with Special Needs

A Guide for Paraprofessionals, Substitute Teachers, and Volunteers

**ALLISON OFFICER, M.S.ED**

I have created a guide titled Working with Students with Special Needs for paras, substitutes, and volunteers to educate them on using "person-first" language, general information about disabilities and their characteristics and successful teaching strategies, and quick tips for providing modifications in the classroom.

<https://goo.gl/ba8rsh>



<http://www.kindergartenworks.com/common-core-standards/never-ending-story/>

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

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## FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Sorting Mats With Real Photos

## WEBSITES AND RESOURCES









<https://goo.gl/pCDAt5>  
<https://goo.gl/3BYsZT>  
<https://goo.gl/dqHwZR>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGNZgutIUVo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGNZgutIUVo)

## Quick ways to CALM down! Sea Life Sensory Solutions.

			
<b>Puffer Fish Puff</b>	<b>Clam Cuddle</b>	<b>Turtle Tongue</b>	<b>Starfish Stretch</b>
Puff your cheeks like a puffer fish!	Cuddle yourself like a clam.	Poke your tongue out like a turtle pokes out its neck.	Stretch out like a starfish.
Fill your cheeks with air and hold for 5 seconds.	Place your hands on the opposite shoulders and squeeze.	Stick your tongue out and quickly hide it again.	Place your arms up over your head and stretch out wide. Stretch your legs out wide too.
			

Your Kids OT

<http://www.yourkidsot.com/blog/quick-ways-to-calm-down-sea-life-sensory-solutions>

## PAYING ATTENTION: 30 SENSORY STRATEGIES

- Auditory Strategies for Attention
- Visual Strategies for Attention
- Tactile Strategies for Attention
- Movement Strategies for Attention
- Oral Sensory and Olfactory Strategies for Attention

<https://goo.gl/RzA6Im>

## 5 Ways to Deescalate Upset Students in your Classroom

### 1. *Breathe & Think Before You Act*

When you start to see a negative behavior or a student who is agitated. Take a breath, Think about how you will respond.

### 2. *Observe The Student*

Check for Body Language & Tone of Voice

Look for Signs of:

- An Aggressive Stance
- Sullen or Sadness
- Depressed
- Off Task Indicators

### 3. *Proximity*

- Once you have assessed the student speak calmly and quietly.
- Move to the student or quietly ask the student to come to a different area.
- Inquire about how they might be feeling

### 4. *Give Options Not Threats*

- Make your learning mandatory but offer some options to get to your final goal.
- Have logical consequences—We will need to do our work now or we will need to do this for the first few mins. of recess.
- Threats will amplify the situation and escalate rather than deescalate.

### 5. *Be Brief But Do Follow UP*

- Once you have said your peace walk away and let the student make the choice
- If they haven't made a choice you may need to make the choice for them.
- They may lead to escalation and may require more interventions
- Praise the positive choice—quietly or loudly depending on the student.

<https://goo.gl/8o1py7>