

Paraeducator Practices

Paraeducator Practices

A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers
Educational Equity for All



November 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

Effective Teaching Strategies for Special Education

Working with short attention spans

- Set clear expectations for all students.
- Break assignments into smaller pieces to work on in short time periods.
- Space breaks between assignments so students can refocus on their tasks.
- Share ideas with parents so they can help with homework.
- Carry out everyday routines consistently.
- Develop a reward system for good behavior, completing work on time and participating in class.
- Use visual and auditory reminders to change from one activity to the next. This may need to be done several times before the change is made. An egg timer is a good auditory tool that indicates a signal to begin or end an activity.

<https://goo.gl/Hczuzg>



7 Ways to Bring Out the Best in Special-Needs Students

- Discover your students' strengths.
- Provide positive role models with disabilities.
- Develop strength-based learning strategies.
- Use assistive technologies and Universal Design for Learning tools.
- Maximize the Power of your students' social networks.
- Help students envision positive future careers.
- Create positive modifications in the learning environment.

https://www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2013/04/08/fp_armstrong.html



The Essential Guide to Understanding Special Educational Needs: Practical Skills for Teachers

Helping you develop the confidence and basic skills needed to understand and support children with special educational needs, this guide will support you in tackling the everyday challenges that working in an inclusive classroom poses.

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



The Center for
Prader-Willi Syndrome
Treating Children & Adults



[For the Student with PWS Food is NEVER OK in the Classroom!](https://www.pwsausa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/PWS_Training_School.pptx)

https://www.pwsausa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/PWS_Training_School.pptx

Tips for teachers of children with special needs

- Don't underestimate children with special needs
- Instill social skills as well as intellectual skills
- Focus on your children's strengths, not their weaknesses
- Re-frame behavioral problems
- Give examples of successful people who had special needs growing up

<https://goo.gl/SaE6E4>



Young Athletes Resources

Special Olympics Young Athletes is a sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities (ID), ages 2 to 7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills, like running, kicking and throwing. Young Athletes offers families, teachers, caregivers and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with all children.

The Young Athletes Resource Toolkit provides information and resources for individuals who are looking to become more involved with Young Athletes. The Young Athletes Curriculum builds on the Young Athletes Activity Guide, providing scripted Lesson Plans to use over an 8 week period.



Young Athletes can be run in schools, communities and homes.

https://resources.specialolympics.org/Topics/Young_Athletes/Young_Athletes_Toolkit.aspx

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/tVSrbY>

<https://www.adaptivemartialarts.org/>

<https://www.specialolympics.org/programs>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities University of Florida

<http://card.ufl.edu/resources/trainings/on-demand-professional-development/>

CARD Professional Development ON-DEMAND- Autism information on your schedule! We have taken our sessions and packaged them in a convenient and easy to use e-learning format, so you can have access to Professional Development on a wide variety of topics related to Autism Spectrum Disorder that you can complete at your own pace. Teachers, check with your school district to see if you can earn in-service points for these – in many cases you can. Each CARD PD ON-DEMAND session description provides the length, target audience, target knowledge level, and the link to enroll. Many sessions have a follow-up activity and quiz. Enroll in a CARD PD ON-DEMAND session today!

Feelin' Groovy: Functional Tactual Skills

Creating a Supportive Learning Environment

Children with visual and multiple impairments tend to have very limited experience with objects. They often form strong attachments to one or two objects and reject everything else. What they choose to do with the objects may be nonfunctional and repetitive. Our job is to widen the experience of these children to include a rich variety of objects and interactions. To do that we must establish a relationship grounded in mutual respect and trust. The key to a trusting and respectful relationship with a child who can't see is to begin by acknowledging that he has a right to control his own hands in exactly the same way that we have a right to control what we look at. We all want to facilitate learning, and the fastest and easiest way to do that is to grab a child's hands. As frustrating as it might be for us at times, development is best facilitated by encouraging rather than demanding (Nielsen).

<https://www.tsbvi.edu/feelin-groovy-functional-tactual-skills>

Games to Support Students with Disabilities

Fun Activities that Support Social and Academic Skills

Reasons for Games: Drill and Repetition, Social Skill Training and Practice, Peer Mediated Instruction <https://goo.gl/VUUVZp>