

Paraeducator Practices

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A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers
Educational Equity for All



December 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

11 Sensory Red Flags

by Alisha <https://goo.gl/eaDrKL>

Before we get into this list, I want to make sure you know that these red flags DO NOT mean that your child has Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder, or any other diagnosis. Most of the behaviors on this list are pretty clear indicators that your child is seeking or avoiding a certain kind of sensory input, and all that means is that you need to support it.

1. Has a meltdown in the store. Every. Time.
2. Never seems to get dizzy
3. Slouches all the time and seems sort of floppy
4. Freaks out when laid on back for diaper changes or washing hair
5. Won't walk barefoot outside
6. Particular about clothes
7. Has to have everything a certain way
8. Pushes people and objects all the time
9. Leans up against washer or stereo speakers
10. Squeezes in tight spots
11. Has a hard time transitioning in between activities

Strategies for Promoting Independence for Students Who Have a 1:1 Paraeducator in General Education

When a 1:1 paraeducator is at their best, they may look like they are doing nothing at all, but very discretely they are supporting their student in the least intrusive manner. Here are five research based strategies that paraeducators can use in such a way to promote independence for their student.

- **Task Analyze it!**
- **Use Visuals!**
- **Watch Your Prompts!**
- **Use Peers!**
- **Promote Self-Management!**

<http://patrickmulick.com/strategies-promoting-independence-students-1-1-paraeducator-general-education/>



Paraeducators: Key Members of the Educational Team



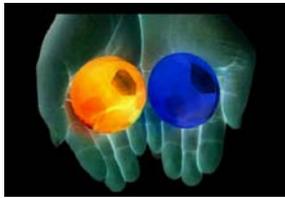
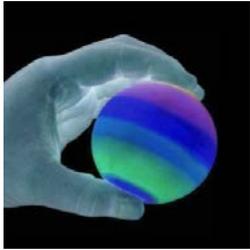
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO8oalSpZc>

National Education Association's Paraeducator Institute at www.nea.org/pi. The Paraeducator Institute is an online resource offering best practices, policies and professional development for paraeducators.

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



HOMEMADE BOUNCY BALLS



<https://goo.gl/Tfw1G5>



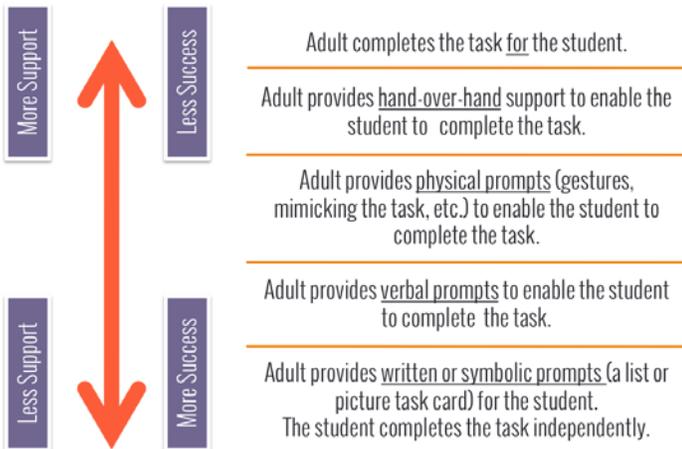
Supporting Children With Multiple Disabilities

Supporting Children with Multiple Disabilities addresses the growing needs of professionals in a variety of educational settings, and provides a practical support framework for children, professionals and parents.

Techniques and methods are explored, leading the reader to find a range of keys that will empower them to unlock the door of learning for all multiple-disabled children.

AVOIDING OVER-USE OF PARAEducATOR SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

The quality and consistency of paraeducator support must also be assured through an active partnership with the supervising teacher so that roles are specific and targeted to benefit each student. We will visit an emerging caution in the use of paraeducator supports: the potential of over-support by paraeducators (or any adult) that can limit independence, social opportunities, and academic progress.



<http://inclusiveschools.org/avoiding-over-use-of-paraeducator-support-for-individual-students/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/KWMkDH>

<https://goo.gl/1GHsTM>

<https://goo.gl/rk7hAk>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



PARAEducATOR TRAINING SERIES

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. <https://goo.gl/hHn3PW>



YOUR ROLE AS A CLASSROOM PARAPROFESSIONAL

Whether you are a new paraprofessional or a veteran, it is important to discuss the role of a classroom paraprofessional. The specifics may change slightly school to school and classroom to classroom but overall, your role is to assist the classroom teacher in helping students learn and keeping them safe. When it comes down to it, you are there for the students. You are there to provide extra staff in a classroom, so students can learn at their individual level and have their more specialized needs met. Some of these specialized needs may include toileting, self-help, behavior, or communication. You are there to improve their quality of life and teach them to become independent adults.

So how do you know how to help them learn and met their needs? The classroom teacher will guide process. The teacher writes the Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for each student regarding how a child will receive educational services. The teacher knows all of the important details that must be followed. Your role as a paraprofessional, is to follow the lead of the teacher. If you ever have any concerns regarding student work, classroom setup, or behavioral interventions - ask the teacher. Do not change things without discussing it with the teacher. It's the teacher's name on the IEP and that is who is legally responsible for getting the educational needs met of each student.

Your specific job duties will change based on the classroom you are in. You may be asked to do things such as take data, run small groups, clean parts of the class, provide toileting assistance, monitor break time, attend inclusion classes, redo work activities, setup activities for the following day, make new class materials, and more. If you are ever unclear as to why you are assigned certain tasks, please ask.

There are basic rules that must be followed just like any job; such as returning from lunch and break at the correct time, not using your cell phone, limiting socializing with other staff members, and dressing appropriately. However, in this job setting those rules are even more crucial because we are dealing with the lives of a very special group of children. Our jobs are extremely important. It is our job to teach children how to communicate, be a part of their community, and become functioning adults. You need to take your job seriously everyday because it is a very serious job.