

Paraeducator Practices

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A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers
Educational Equity for All



August 2019

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

Students with special needs need to know you won't give up on them, even if they may have already given up on themselves.

5 Actions that Build Rapport

1. Acknowledge frustrations and struggles; let the student be heard and validated
2. Model asking for and offering forgiveness
3. Start each day with a fresh slate
4. Use humor in appropriate ways to build a culture of fun that does not belittle anyone
5. Look for other adults who have built good rapport with the student and ask for their input

5 Actions that Break Rapport

1. Give up, or believe this student will never change
2. Publicly humiliate a student (from his/her perception)
3. Demand quicker progress when the student is already trying his/her hardest
4. Don't acknowledge student growth
5. Be inflexible

neaToday

New to education? This podcast brings you advice from educators who have been there, done that. Get classroom management tips, lesson plan ideas, and other life-hacks to help inspire your career.

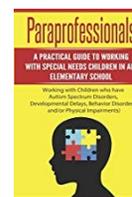
The Teacher & Paraeducator Team

Courtney Dooley & Tameka Mays are a teacher and paraeducator team who've spent 2 years together in their math and science classroom in Newcastle, DE. They share their tips about the teacher/paraeducator relationship and how to get the most out of it while supporting students.

Dynamic Duos: Cultivating a Successful Teacher-Paraeducator Relationship

Tricia Lucy & Whitney Barber share school year preparation tips from the perspectives of a classroom teacher and a paraeducator. This dynamic duo exemplifies a supportive and successful teacher-paraeducator relationship.

<http://neatoday.org/school-me/school-me-podcast/>

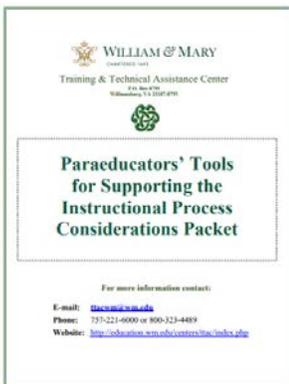


Paraprofessionals: A Practical Guide to Working with Special Needs Children in an Elementary School
by Blythe Andrea

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

Prepare for a positive year.

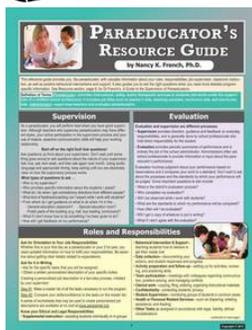
Yours can be a difficult and demanding job. You may be given a lot of responsibility, possibly without a lot of information and often without a lot of authority. You are likely to have several "bosses," including the school principal and various teachers, some of whom may not always communicate effectively with you or with each other. Your schedule may change frequently and without warning. Paraeducators need to be flexible and willing to do whatever needs to be done. Try to maintain a positive mindset and to focus your energies on the students in your care.



Paraeducators' Tools for Supporting the Instructional Process

This Considerations Packet focuses on tools that paraeducators need in order to offer instructional support to classroom teachers. These tools will help paraeducators

understand basic knowledge about programming for students with disabilities, effective communication, and collaboration skills. Practical suggestions and application tips to strengthen paraeducators' ability to effectively support classroom instruction are offered. <https://t.ly/qW7m>



From supervising students to carrying out a teacher's lesson plans to collecting data, the paraeducator plays an important part in the day to day instruction of students. Paraeducator's Resource Guide, by Nancy K. French, provides the

paraeducator with valuable information about the everyday responsibilities associated with this support services position, other titles for which include paraprofessional, teaching assistant, communication assistant, and teacher aide, among others. <https://www.nprinc.com/paraeducators-resource-guide/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://t.ly/Wm18>
<https://t.ly/BKIL>
<https://t.ly/xDVb>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GREAT NEWS!
From now
to the end of 2019,
IRIS PD Certificates are
FREE
Click **HERE** to learn more.



<https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>

Functional Skills: Skills to Help Special Education Students Gain Independence

Functional skills are those skills a student needs to live independently. An important goal of special education is for our students to gain as much independence and autonomy as possible, whether their disability is emotional, intellectual, physical, or a combination of two or more (multiple) disabilities. Skills are defined as functional as long as the outcome supports the student's independence. For some students, those skills may be learning to feed themselves. For other students, it may be learning to use a bus and read a bus schedule. We can separate the functional skills as:

- Life Skills
- Functional Academic Skills
- Community-Based Learning Skills
- Social Skills

<https://t.ly/Wmxk>

10 Minute Training - Data Collection



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yiays2Cs1gA>

Since you with most likely need to be familiar with AAC devices, or other AT devices, take a look at the AbleNet Youtube channel to see how to program these devices.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ablenetinc>