

Paraeducator Practices

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A Newsletter for Paraeducators and Their Teachers
Educational Equity for All



October 2016

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



 AbleNet's
Action Dictionary



Working with students who have complex needs such as communication, gross motor, fine motor and learning challenges require knowledge in adaptations for access and engagement.

Special Education

Consider the Action Dictionary.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ablenets-action-dictionary/id571824316?mt=11>

Six Ways to Manage a Small Group

Many times paraeducators are called upon to manage a small group. The following points are tips to consider as you are working with your students.

1. **Shared focal point-** One direction or local for everyone to look at.
2. **Can I see?**
 - Make sure all students can see each other.
 - Be sure to call attention to materials and objects that are being used.
 - Include students with sight impairments by giving them the chance to touch the materials.
3. **Students manage materials**
 - Call on students to find materials needed for the lesson.
 - Divide jobs among the group in cutting or prepping materials.
 - Create Concrete Connections together and use to review skills when assembling.
4. **Model for students**
 - Show how to use and treat each tool / material – in isolation and in context of the lesson.
 - Show your thinking by thinking outloud.
5. **Provide opportunities for a group response**
 - By clapping, making positive comments, answering, and /or repeating together, students are drawn into the group and the activity.
6. **Create interest**
 - Connect the topic to the students: what they like and what is exciting

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

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
Misstanad@educationequityforall.org; 909-964-5057
<http://www.educationequity4all.com/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Strategies at Hand: Quick and Handy Strategies for Working with Students on the Autism Spectrum Paperback

by [Robin Brewer and Tracy Mueller](#)

Strategies at Hand reintroduces the much-valued concept of convenience to teachers, paraprofessionals and related professionals who work with students with autism spectrum disorders.

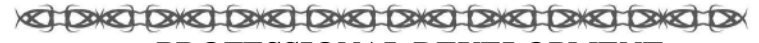
www.amazon.com

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

http://www.gtcenter.org/sites/default/files/Snapshot_Paraprofessional.pdf

<http://susanfitzell.com/articles-by-susan-fitzell/12-ways-to-improve-and-enhance-your-paraprofessional-teacher-experience/>

http://www.fvkasa.org/ParaToolkit_ur.pdf



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Online Vocational Program for Activity Assistants, Human Services, and Special Needs Assistants

Welcome to Activities for Life, Therapeutic Services, where we provide an OBRA-based Vocational Program for Activity Assistants, Human Services, and Special Needs Assistants.

After completing the program, your Certificate will be mailed to your home address.

Course modules include:

- Special needs topics: Autism, Alzheimer's, Aging, Chronic Pain, etc
- Therapeutic program design
- State/federal regulations- Care/ treatment plans
- Cognitive assessments
- Psych-social care
- Work in nursing homes
- Adult day programs
- Human Services Topics
- After-school programs
- Private pay, and more

Email: [Contact us here](#) (or request a callback).

Using word walls for visual supports!!!



A **word wall** is a collection of **words** which are displayed in large visible letters on a **wall**, bulletin board, or other display surface in a classroom. The **word wall** is designed to be an interactive tool for students and contains an array of **words** that can be used during writing and reading.



More functional way to teach alphabet!!!

Graphic Organizers

Here you will find 54 graphic organizers. They are PDFs. Note: Some of the graphic organizers may be filled out (and then printed).

Categories of Organizers

- Cause and Effect Organizers
- Character and Story Organizers
- Compare and Contrast Organizers
- Sequence, Cycle, Timeline, Cluster, Hierarchy, and Chain of Events Organizers
- Vocabulary Development and Concept Organizers
- Miscellaneous Organizers (Goal Setting, KWL, Question Creation, etc.)

<http://www.educationoasis.com/printables/graphic-organizers/>



Teacher resources and professional development across the curriculum

Interactives

Elements of a Story

Pick another Interactive:
Choose One

Intro | Elements of A Story | Test Your Skills

Cinderella | Setting | Characters | Sequence | Exposition | Conflict | Climax | Resolution

Introduction

good story is like a tasty soup. It follows a recipe with a handful of ingredients that all blend together. In this interactive, we are going to explore the different ingredients, or elements, that go into stories and make them so much fun. We are going to start by reading "Cinderella." Then we will look at all the different pieces of the tale, to see how they all fit together.

[Tell me a story](#)

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/story/>



Building Self-Esteem in Children with Special Needs

- Focus on Talents
- Encourage Effort
- Rejoice in What They Do Well
- Help Them Look Beyond School
- Involve them in Hands-on Activities

<http://www.specialeducationguide.com/pre-k-12/behavior-and-classroom-management/building-self-esteem-in-children-with-special-needs/>