

PARAPROFESSIONALS: TIPS FOR SUCCESS



Paraprofessionals are an essential part of a student's growth in the classroom. Given clear expectations, our students will experience success.

- 1 Collaborate:** Set aside a common time with the teacher outside of class to discuss lessons and interventions needed for student support. Establish a plan for regularly scheduled, open communication.
- 2 Model:** Modeling is a valuable form of teaching. Display the positive communication, behavior, and learning strategies your students should imitate.
- 3 Circulate:** Prompt your student to begin a task, circulate around the room, and check back in. By assisting other students in class, you not only help others but decrease stigma for the child you are assigned to in class.
- 4 Fade Support:** As students gain skills, decrease your level of support. Make student independence your goal. When it comes to prompting, less is more.
- 5 Speak Quietly:** Keeping the class focused is a challenge. Avoid distraction by using a soft voice and non-verbal communication: Point, nod, or give a thumbs up.
- 6 Respond Appropriately:** Calm, Consistent, and Caring. Student behaviors may be directed at you, but they are not about you. When you do not take their actions personally, it will be easier to give students a fresh start every day.
- 7 Be Present:** Kindly turn off your cell phone. Look for opportunities to reinforce appropriate behavior and recognize students' effort. Remember the power of "yet."
- 8 Maintain Confidentiality:** Address concerns discretely with the teacher, away from other students. Do not share student information in public or with others.

For more information on how to maximize paraprofessional support visit our website.