The Paraprofessional's Handbook For Effective Support In Inclusive Classrooms

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Julie Causton-Theoharis

Foreword by Paula Kluth

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Synopsis

What does a great paraprofessional need to know and do? Find out in this handy survival guide, equally useful for the brand-new paraprofessional or the 20-year classroom veteran. Packed with friendly guidance, practical tips, and relatable first-person stories, this book reveals the best ways to provide effective, respectful services to students in inclusive classrooms. Julie Causton-Theoharis, a teacher, professor, and educational consultant with more than 10 years of experience as a paraprofessional instructor, knows exactly how to help readers stop feeling overwhelmed so they can start making a difference. She answers all the urgent questions paraprofessionals have as they navigate their complex job in the inclusive classroom, showing readers how to: provide skillful and subtle support to students while encouraging their independence; resolve challenging behavior in gentle and positive ways; find students’ strengths and match support practices to them; fade their support; make informed decisions about content-specific accommodations, modifications, and adaptations; presume competence and keep expectations high; facilitate peer supports and friendships; partner with teachers, SLPs, psychologists, families, and other members of the educational team; relieve their own stress and avoid burnout.

To help them master the daily ups and downs of the inclusive classroom, paraprofessionals will get ready-to-use practical content: tips for supporting students with specific disabilities, helpful question-and-answer sections, examples of successful problem-solving, a quick-guide to acronyms in education, easy ideas for improving teamwork, and more. The essential guide for every paraprofessional—and a must-have for the educators and other professionals who support them—this empowering book takes the guesswork out of a critical classroom role and helps students with disabilities reach their full potential. Click here to watch a recording of Dr. Causton's webinar - The Role of the Paraprofessional in the Inclusive Class.

Download a free and printable 'Paraprofessional job description' poster for your classroom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While this book is geared toward paraprofessionals, it is also an incredible resource and guide for ANY educators who work in inclusive classrooms, want to work in inclusive classrooms, or want to learn to meet the needs of ALL of their students. The chapter on behavior is particularly insightful, with significant examples and practical suggestions of how to support kids gently and respectfully. Other highlights include information about how to take care of yourself as an educator while doing this challenging work—a sensitive and unique chapter. Please read this book. I am NOT a special education teacher. I've taught high school choir for 15 years and worked with countless special education students, special education assistants and teachers over the years. This book shows how things really can be...how all adults can support all kids. Amazing and inspiring.

I recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn how to be a more effective paraprofessional, a teacher who wants to work with paraprofessionals more effectively, or to a parent who wants to learn more about what the role of a paraprofessional should be and how they can support and empower your child.

I absolutely love the author of this book. Had the pleasure to take one of her course.. phenomenal! She is very knowledgeable about her subject area. What I loved about this book was that there are few like it. Paraprofessionals need more training and guidance than they often receive. This is a great book to start, and it is also a great reminder for teacher who need to work with paraprofessionals.

As a parent, I bought this book to read myself and then I bought copies for my son's paraprofessional and special education teacher. His regular education teachers read it too. They all agreed that the book was an easy read, informative and full of good ideas. I think it has helped us all get on the same page.
This book is invaluable for the paraprofessional, and should be available to each person joining the profession. It provides the necessary knowledge to give the para self-confidence and the ability to make a difference in the classroom for the student AND the teaching staff.

I was looking for a book to fill in the answers to my questions! This book told me what I did not even think of!

This book has lots of the concerns and issues for para pros addressed. It is well written and easy to read.

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