



Teacher-Para Teams

WHY IT MATTERS

A strong teacher-paraprofessional relationship improves student outcomes, fosters collaboration, and creates a more inclusive and supportive classroom environment.

KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Teacher

- Develops lesson plans and instructional activities
- Leads whole-group and small-group instruction
- Assesses student progress and adjusts instruction accordingly
- Establishes classroom routines and behavior expectations

Paraprofessional

- Supports instructional delivery under teacher guidance
- Assists with behavior management and accommodations
- Provides individualized student support
- Helps with non-instructional tasks (e.g., materials preparation)



BENEFITS

- Improved Student Learning: More individualized support ensures all students receive the attention they need.
- Stronger Classroom Management: well-coordinated team creates a structured and positive learning environment.
- Increased Instructional Time: Efficient collaboration minimizes disruptions and maximizes learning opportunities.
- Better Adaptation to Student Needs: Teachers and paraprofessionals can quickly adjust strategies to support diverse learners.
- Higher Job Satisfaction: Clear roles, respect, and teamwork lead to a more positive and productive work experience.





BEST PRACTICES

- Clear Communication: Establish open dialogue about expectations and responsibilities
- Defined Roles: Clarify tasks to maximize support for students
- Ongoing Feedback: Regularly discuss what's working and where improvements are needed
- Team Mindset: Approach challenges together with mutual respect

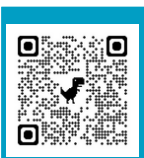
BUILDING POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- Set clear expectations from the start
- Foster open, respectful communication
- Schedule check-ins for planning and feedback
- Appreciate each other's contributions to student success



REMINDERS

Teamwork takes consistent effort and communication, so always be open, flexible, and supportive. Keep the shared goal of student success at the center of all decisions. Respect and appreciation go a long way in building a strong, effective team, so make sure to acknowledge each other's contributions and maintain a positive working relationship.



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