

Support Staff in Physical Education: How to Use Paraeducators and Peer Tutors

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Support Staff

- Children with disabilities learn more with smaller ratios
- Physical Educators must attend to all students
- Support staff can help in many, many ways



Support Staff

- Can consist of:
 - Paraeducators
 - Peer tutors
 - Professional Preparation students (university)
 - Parents
 - Grandparents
 - Service organization volunteers

This presentation

● Paraeducators & Peer tutors

- Benefits
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Training programs
- Evaluation



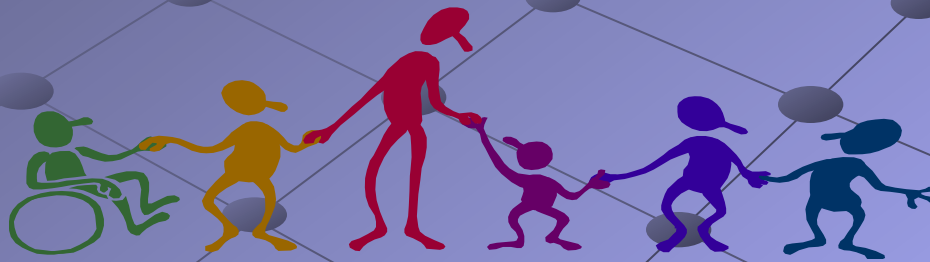
Definition of Paraeducator

- The prefix **para-** is defined as “at the side of, beside, alongside of”.
- A paraeducator, therefore, is a person who works alongside of the teacher, specialist, and administrator in a school.
- May be known as “Teacher Aid, Educational Aid, or Paraprofessional”



Benefits of the Paraeducator

- An extra set of eyes in the gymnasium
- An extra set of hands to assist with instructional duties
- Support in decision making
- Acquire knowledge about the students with disabilities
- Assistance with a variety of teaching related duties



Roles of Paraeducators



Para-educators

Teach 1:1 or small groups

Classroom management

Behavior management

Input on Individual Education Plans

Help with assessment

Utilizing the Paraeducator Effectively

Roles of the Paraeducator

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graph TD; A[Roles of the Paraeducator] --> B[Before Class]; A --> C[During Class]; A --> D[After class];
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Before Class

During Class

After class

Before Class

- Discuss the student's disability
- Share IEP goals and objectives
- Discuss your teaching philosophy and approach
- Discuss the paraeducator's duties



During class

- Dress for PE
- Take attendance
- Help with equipment
- Assist with instruction
 - 1:1
 - Small group
 - Stations
- Monitor peer tutor program

During Class Continued

- Paraeducators can gather information on a student with a disability
- Assist with IEP goals and objectives
- Resolve conflicts when they arise
- Assist with medical or personal care needs
- Increase socialization
- Other?



Communicating and Collaboration with Paraeducators

- Information needs to be shared both ways
- Communicate weekly
 - Planned meetings
 - E-mails
 - Lesson plans in mailbox
 - Texts
- Must be OK to call last minute meetings if necessary



Paraeducators in Physical Education

A Training Guide to Roles and Responsibilities



APAE

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Paraeducator Training

Training should be started at the start of the school year and be ongoing throughout

- What is Physical Education?
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Assessment
- Behavior management
- Instruction/Feedback
- Modifications
- Collaboration

- Other?
- Lieberman, 2007



Motivating Paraeducators



- **Name on door along with yours**
- **Furnishing their own locker**
- **School physical education shirt**
- **Introduction at the beginning of the term and/or school year**
- **Acknowledgement and appreciation shown**
 - **Para of the Year Awards**
 - **Bulletin Boards**
 - **Newsletters**
 - **Staff Meetings**

Motivating Paraeducators



- **Gatorade or power bars during/after class**
- **Attendance at conferences with you**
- **After school exercise class**
- **End of year party**
- **Gifts at holidays and/or birthdays**

Paraeducators Feedback Checklist



Note specifically how the paraeducator is doing on the following tasks:

- 1. Follows lesson plans**
- 2. Establishes rapport with students**
- 3. Shows understanding and sensitivity to the student's needs**
- 4. Gives clear instructions to the student or group**
- 5. Uses appropriate questions**
- 6. Uses materials effectively**

Feedback Checklist



7. Reinforces the teaching of the lesson objective
8. Keeps lesson focused on goals and objectives
9. Keeps students on task
10. Gives appropriate feedback to students
11. Fosters socialization with peers
12. Records students' progress
13. Stays on task and uses allotted time effectively

Establishing the School Culture

**It's all about building rapport
through respect, communication
and collaboration**

Peer Tutors

- Have been shown to increase motor skills, fitness, socialization, and participation
- Can use different types
 - Same age
 - Cross age
 - Unidirectional
 - Bidirectional
 - Classwide Peer Tutoring

Roles of Peer Tutors



Peer tutors

Instruction

Demonstrate skill and behavior

Feedback

Assessment

Socialization/friendships



Trained

Untrained

Trained Peer tutors

- Characteristics of a good peer tutor?
- Training
 - 2-20 to 30 minute sessions
 - Include the child with the disability when possible
 - Train 2-3 peer tutors per child with disability



Who should train the tutors?

APE/
PE

Paraeducators

Special
Ed



Peer Tutor Program

- Application (Lieberman & Houston-Wilson, 2009)
- Permission
- Disability Awareness
- Communication Techniques
- Instructional Techniques/Feedback
- Scenarios
- Tests

Ongoing Training A Must

Before Class

During Class

After Class

Evaluation of Peers

● Tutor Performance Assessment

- Ability to cue appropriately
- Ability to model appropriately
- Ability to physically assist as needed
- Ability to maintain data
- Ability to work well and cooperatively with teacher and peers

**Good *Progressing #Needs Work

Lieberman & Houston-Wilson, 2009

References

- Cervantes, C.M., Lieberman, L.J., Magnessio, B, & Wood, J. (2013).
 - Peer tutoring: Meeting the demands of inclusion in today's general physical education settings. *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance*, 84, 43-48.
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