PARA111
Working with Paras: Positive and Safe Learning Environment

Course Overview

This course addresses components of the school environment including safety and security and school culture that are important for both the teacher and paraprofessional to know and understand. The content provides teachers with a balance of learning opportunities designed to develop knowledge and best practices for creating a safe and inclusive school environment for all students and paraprofessionals. Teachers will review current school and classroom rules to build culturally and linguistically inclusive environments.

Participants in this course will review and revise current practices to align with safety and security needs and culturally responsive practices. Teachers will train paraprofessionals to use positive behavior supports, understand and apply strategies that promote inclusive practices and consider the diverse needs of learners, including those with disabilities, develop culturally responsive communication strategies which effectively engage the parents, guardians, and communities of students while honoring linguistic, racial, ethnic, identity, and other cultural diversities. Participants in this this course will achieve these objectives through various lessons and activities. By the end of the course, the participant will have a better understanding of how work with the paraprofessionals to create and maintain a positive and safe learning environment.

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Course Outline

Session 1 – Introduction

1.1 Welcome to the Course

        1.1.1 Course Overview

        1.1.2 Course Objectives

        1.1.3 Course Navigation

Session 2 – The Paraprofessional as a Collaborator

2.1 Session 2 Overview

2.2 Understanding the Roles on the Team

2.3 Planning and Scheduling

Session 3 – The Paraprofessional as a Communicator

3.1 Session 3 Overview

3.2 Communicating with Adults

3.3 Giving and Receiving Feedback

3.4 Conflict Resolution

3.5 Communicating with Students

Session 4: Supporting Students with Unique Needs

4.1 Session 4 Overview

4.2 Students with Disabilities

4.3 Students Learning English

Session 5 – Course Wrap-Up

5.1 Course Conclusion

5.2 Course Feedback Form

5.3 Course Completion