



PARA313

Paraprofessionals: Overview of Special Education

About the Course

Overview of Special Education is designed to increase your understanding of the laws and regulations impacting education and make connections to the roles of a paraprofessional. After completing the course, you will be able to identify the categories of paraprofessionals and their general purpose, understand the roles and responsibilities of paraprofessionals in supporting academics and behavior, and identify and apply characteristics of an effective paraprofessional. You will also be able to use culturally responsive communication strategies to work with students and their families, build and maintain effective communication between the paraprofessional and supervising teachers, and collaborate effectively with teachers and other staff.

About the Series

Paraprofessionals are an important part of the 21st century classroom. As a paraprofessional, you can support quality classroom instruction, help maintain a positive learning environment for students, and provide added support for students who need special services. Whether you're just getting started as a paraprofessional, or you've been serving for many years, the courses in this series will give you practical, universal tips and strategies to be at your best in the classroom.

Course Outline

Introduction

- Welcome, Course Objectives, and Navigation
- Pre-Assessment
- Key Terms

Section 1: Laws, Regulations, and Policies

- Section Overview
- Education Law Overview
 - Education Laws and Regulations
 - Deeper Dive into IDEA
- Confidentiality
 - The Importance of Confidentiality
 - Confidentiality: Tips for Paraprofessionals
 - Quick Check: Confidentiality
- Local Policies and Procedures

Section 2: The Paraprofessional Role

- Section Overview
- What is a Paraprofessional?
 - The Important Role of Paraprofessionals
 - Increasing Need for Paraprofessionals
 - Various Types of Paraprofessionals
 - Quick Check: Paraprofessionals
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Reflection: Roles and Responsibilities
 - Roles and Responsibilities: Dos and Don'ts
 - Quick Check: Roles and Responsibilities

Section 3: Supporting Students

- Section Overview
- Inclusive Classrooms
 - Why Inclusive Classrooms?
 - Quick Check: Inclusive Classrooms
- Academics
 - Reflection: High Expectations for ALL Students
 - Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
 - Accommodations and Modifications
 - Supporting Academics: Strategies and Tips for Paraprofessionals
- Behavior
 - Managing Behavior
 - Introduction to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
 - Quick Check: PBIS
 - Reflection: PBIS for Paraprofessionals
 - Positive Behavioral Strategies and Supports: Tips for Paraprofessionals
- Data Collection
 - Supporting Data Collection
 - Data Collection: Tips for Paraprofessionals

- Communication
 - Student Communication
 - Communicating Effectively with Students: Tips for Paraprofessionals
 - Reflection: Providing Effective Feedback
 - Providing Effective Student Feedback: Tips for Paraprofessionals

Section 4: Communication and Collaboration

- Section Overview
- What is Culturally Responsive Communication?
 - Reflection: Culturally Responsive Communication
 - Culturally Responsive Communication: Things to Remember
 - Culturally Responsive Communication: Tips for Paraprofessionals
- Effective Paraprofessional-Teacher Communication and Collaboration
 - Establishing Clear Communication
 - Quick Check: Teacher-Paraprofessional Communication and Collaboration
 - Reflection: Communication and Collaboration Tools
 - Communication and Collaboration: Tips for Paraprofessional

Closing Activities

- Post-Assessment
- Course Evaluation
- Course Completion