



A Post for Paraeducators Working with Students within Schools in Central Rivers AEA

ParaPost

  I'm A  

Paraeducator



What's your



SUPERPOWER?

Welcome to the next ParaPost! A Post for Paraeducators Working with Students within Schools in Central Rivers AEA. We at Central Rivers are looking forward to supporting you in your role as a paraeducator and hope that you find this information useful.



Central Rivers AEA ABC Paraeducator Award Nominations are Open!



In order to honor the hard work and dedication of the paraeducators employed by the schools within CRAEA, we are excited to bring back the ABC (Above and Beyond the Call of the Paraeducator Profession) Paraeducator Award.

This award gives us a chance to highlight the incredible service that paraeducators provide to our schools and our students. Often working without fanfare and behind the scenes, paraeducators are the lifeline for teachers to provide the individual attention so many students need to unlock their academic potential. Through continuous daily successes, students are given the opportunity to maximize their education because of the efforts of paraeducators.



The nomination form is now open! Use the QR code or <https://bit.ly/ABCparaeducator>. The form asks for 2-3 examples of how the paraeducator goes above and beyond in each competency as well how they go above and beyond the call of duty in the Paraeducator Profession professionally and by being involved in the community. You can also (but NOT required) submit letters of recommendation that may be shared with the nominee. Deadline for submission is February 28th! With regional winners announced in the spring and the agency wide winner announced in May.

Coming Soon! The Para Institute

We are planning for 2024! Our goal is to provide a learning opportunity specifically focused on all things paraeducators and we need your input! Please complete the form below so the planning committee can design the best possible experience. Share with others!

[Google Survey](#)



Para Help Line

Submit any questions you have and we will share the answers, advice and guidance. Please submit your questions to tkesler@centralriversaea.org and our team will address them.

I have been told that I need to be following the IEP, but I have not been given access to or a copy of the IEP. How do I get this information and what do I need to know about IEPs?

These are great questions and so valuable to the success of students. Having a set time to meet with the teacher for him/her to go over the parts of the IEP that pertain to you, would be a great first step. The IEP can be a complicated document to read, so ask as many questions as you need to fully understand your role in helping your student be successful. If the special education teacher is not finding time to meet with you or giving you access to the parts of the IEP you need, you may need to speak with your administrator. Also, keep in mind that the information found in an IEP is confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside of the student's IEP team.

How can I learn about the students I am supporting?

Start by reading each student's IEP. Ask the teacher with whom you are working to show you a copy of the IEP. This document and its contents are confidential and not to be shared with others, but as the paraprofessional, you can have access to a student's IEP. You can also get to know the student by asking questions about his or her likes, dislikes, interests, and struggles.

Here are some questions that would be helpful when getting to know a student:

- What do you want me to know about you?
- What do you like about school?
- What don't you like about school?
- What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
- Will you tell me about your friends?
- How do you prefer to be supported?
- What do you need from me?
- What don't you want me to do?

You can also ask the classroom teacher for insights about the type of support the student needs. Here are some questions you could ask:

- What is motivating for this student?
- What does this student enjoy?
- Can you tell me about this student's friends?



- **How can we support this student’s social needs?**
- **“How can we best support this student’s academic needs?”**
- **Does this student have any challenging behavior?**
- **How can we best support this student’s behavior?**
- **Does this student have sensory needs of which I need to be aware?**
- **Does this student have communication needs that I might need to know about?**
- **What modifications does this student use?**
- **Does this student use assistive technology?**
- **What else do I need to know about this student?**

Excerpt From
Facilitator’s Guide to The Paraprofessional’s Handbook for Effective Support in Inclusive
Classrooms, Second Edition

Julie Causton

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$$2 + 1 = 3$$

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

Supporting Struggling Math Students

Paraprofessionals are an essential part of the school team creating successful experiences for students and are often tasked to work with struggling math learners in small groups or one on one. When students are struggling in math, it's important to ask them targeted questions or phrases to help identify the root of their difficulties. Here are some questions and phrases you can ask to better understand their struggles:

- Can you explain the specific concept or problem that you're finding challenging?
- What steps have you tried so far to solve the problem?
- Can you show me your work or thought process?
- Are there any specific parts of the problem or concept that confuse you?
- Have you encountered similar problems before? If so, how did you approach them?
- Are there any specific areas within the larger topic that you feel less confident about?
- What number do you think you will start with?
- Have you sought help from classmates, friends, or the teacher? If so, what did they suggest?
- Are there any specific resources or strategies that you find helpful when learning math?
- Tell me about the diagram that you drew.
- How does the equation you wrote connect with the word problem?
- What tools could you use to help you get started? (cubes, number line, algebra tiles, 100 chart, etc.)

By asking these questions or phrases, you can gain valuable insights into the student's thought process, identify misconceptions, and provide targeted support to help them overcome their difficulties in math. Remember to approach the conversation with empathy and create a safe space for the student to express their concerns.

Some find it helpful to create a bookmark or to keep example questions in a plastic sleeve to refer to when working with students.

Amie Smith, Central Rivers AEA Math Consultant

This article was supported by artificial intelligence.

OpenAI. (2021). Magic School: information about questions to ask when students are struggling in math. <https://app.magicsschool.ai/raina/f7c98eef-0d66-4181-a4bb-0ec7cb61383a>

App.Magicsschool.Ai, app.magicsschool.ai/raina/f7c98eef-0d66-4181-a4bb-0ec7cb61383a. Accessed 18 Oct. 2023.



Flip the Script on Student Behavior

All too often, we assign negative labels to students who exhibit behaviors we might consider to be challenging. But what if we changed our perspective by reframing those negative labels into positive ones?

Your mindset matters!

Check out the **free poster** from 321insight.com

Instead of thinking about students as...	We could think about the student as...
A chronic interrupter	Talkative or excited
Controlling	Needing choices
Over-emotional	Perceptive or sensitive
Demanding	Confident
Scattered or unfocused	Curious
Anxious	Careful
Overactive	An energetic learner
Unmotivated	Easygoing

"Flip the Script on Student Behavior." 321Insight, 27 Sept. 2023, www.321insight.com/resources/.



On Demand

Check out the latest On-Demand Learning Opportunities!

15 Minutes ▶

Big Ideas with AI

What is AI and what impact does it have on education?

[More Details](#)

15 Minutes ▶

An Overview of Dyslexia

Have you ever wondered what exactly "dyslexia" is? What are the common characteristics of dyslexia?

[More Details](#)

20 Minutes ▶

Cybersecurity: Phishing Email Red Flags

Phishing is an attempt sent through an email to trick you into clicking a malicious link or giving up your personal information. Do you know how to spot a phishing email?

[More Details](#)

Learning Opportunities!

Central Rivers AEA has a variety of learning opportunities for a variety of audiences.

Paraeducator Generalist Certification Courses

To obtain a Paraeducator Generalist Certification, you must complete the following three courses (from any AEA). Central Rivers AEA offers these courses as a blended opportunity (Virtual Face to Face and online coursework). Together, these three courses cover all six competencies.

- **#204124 CR - Paraeducator Generalist Certification Program - Course I Introduction/Foundation**
January 8, 2024 - March 31, 2024 • April 18, 2024 - June 13, 2024
- **#204317 CR - Paraeducator Generalist Certification Program - Course II Instructional Support**
January 11, 2024 - March 29, 2024 • April 17, 2024 - June 28, 2024 • August 1, 2024 - September 13, 2024
- **#204318 CR - Paraeducator Generalist Certification Program - Course III Behavioral Support**
January 11, 2024 - March 29, 2024 • April 17, 2024 - June 28, 2024 • August 1, 2024 - September 13, 2024

Renewal options

- **#215981 The Happiness Advantage Book Study**
December 5th - January 30th, 2024
- **#215980 CR - Regroup, Refresh, Renew your learning**
January 9, 2024-February 6, 2024
- **#204352 CR - Literacy Development in Early Childhood**
February 28, 2024-May 22, 2024
- **#: 216095 CR - Collaborative Problem Solving - Essential Foundations (Level 1)**
December 8, 2023 - February 16, 2024

Substitute Authorization

Paraeducators who hold a Paraeducator certificate with the limited Substitute Authorization endorsement may serve as a substitute only in their own special education classroom. Limited to 5 consecutive days in your assigned SPED classroom. The Substitute Authorization endorsement added to a paraeducator certificate only works if the Paraeducator is assigned a classroom. If they are not assigned to the classroom they may not sub for that class.

- **#204756 CR - Substitute Authorization**
December 4, 2023-January 8, 2024

*To view previous issues and/or receive our monthly email publications, visit
www.centralriversaea.org/educators/professional-learning/professional-learning-newsletters/*



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