A New Paraprofessional Job Description

HOW TO REALLY SUPPORT A CHILD

Listen to them. Learn from them. Support belonging. Watch them.

Let them learn. Always speak kindly. Let them fail sometimes. Stop yelling.

Be there, but give them space. Hear them.

Encourage independence. Let them fail sometimes. Stop yelling.

Hear them. Ask, “What do you need?” Handle them with care.

Encourage interdependence. Encourage interdependence.

Step back. Relax.

Be safe. Be trustworthy. Remember, this is a person first. Be respectful.

BE A LEARNER YOURSELF. Allow choice.

If they are loud, be quiet.

If they are sad, wipe their tears.

Attribute the best possible motive consistent with the facts.

Assume competence always.

BE GENTLE. If they are loud, be quiet.

Set students up to be successful.

When they have difficulties, kindly redirect.

Follow their lead.

BREATHE. Lead by loving.

Assume friendship is possible.

When students are happy, step back.

Ask, “How can I best help you?”

Allow students to create together, laugh together, and have fun together.

Help students connect. Redirect softly.

Share positive stories with students’ parents.

The Paraprofessional’s Handbook for Effective Support in Inclusive Classrooms—By Dr. Julie Causton