

10 WAYS PARAS IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES



1. FACILITATING ACCESS TO LEARNING MATERIALS AND ENVIRONMENTS

Paras ensure students with disabilities can physically and cognitively access materials, tools, and resources in the classroom. This includes modifying materials, adapting tools, or arranging classroom layouts for inclusivity.

2. PROVIDING TARGETED SUPPORT FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Paras offer one-on-one or small-group support to reinforce academic, social, and functional skills, helping students build competencies in a focused manner without replacing teacher-led instruction.

3. ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH FADING STRATEGIES

By gradually reducing direct support, paras help students develop self-reliance, problem-solving skills, and the ability to function independently within the classroom and beyond.

4. PROMOTING PEER INTERACTION AND SOCIAL SKILLS

Paras are instrumental in facilitating peer relationships, redirecting students toward peer interactions, and reducing barriers to social inclusion, which enhances students' social and emotional development.

5. SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE PRACTICES IN SPECIALIZED SETTINGS

Paras adapt strategies to help students participate fully in learning environments like art or physical education, ensuring access to all aspects of the curriculum.

6. HELPING MANAGE BEHAVIOR TO IMPROVE ENGAGEMENT

Paras use behavioral strategies and assist with implementing individualized behavior plans, allowing students to remain engaged in learning while reducing disruptions.

7. ENHANCING COLLABORATION BETWEEN EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES

Paras act as a bridge between teachers, students, and families, providing insights into student needs and progress, and supporting communication across stakeholders.

8. ENSURING STUDENT SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

For students with significant needs, paras provide essential physical and emotional support, ensuring safety while fostering a sense of belonging in the school community.

9. MODELING AND REINFORCING INCLUSIVE VALUES

Paras play a role in creating a respectful and welcoming classroom culture by valuing all students and collaborating with teachers to foster an inclusive environment.

10. ENCOURAGING TEAM TO FOCUS ON CORE INSTRUCTION

By managing routines, assisting with transitions, and supporting individual students, paras help all team members deliver high-quality, differentiated instruction to the entire class.

PROMPTING LADDER = SUPPORT THAT FADES NOT DISAPPEARS

I WANT TO BUILD STUDENT INDEPENDENCE

PROMPTING LADDERS

Most Intrusive

- Full physical
- Partial physical
- Verbal prompt
- Visual prompt
- Modeling
- Indirect Verbal prompt
- Gestures
- Wait Time
- Natural Cue
- Invisible/Materials

Least Intrusive