

The ParaProvider

Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Special Education Cooperative

Volume 2 , Number 2 April 2005

Hello ParaEducators,

It was nice to see so many of you at our Annual Paraeducator Dinner & In-service. Our "treasured paras" enjoyed a good meal including delicious homemade pie for dessert.

Our guest speakers were Nancy Clary and Beth Dusing, teachers of students with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders at Kenton County Kentucky. Our in-service was titled Forget About Style, Worry About Results!

Topics covered include:
Defusing Student Behavior
Avoiding Power Struggles
Maintaining Dignity
Variables of Compliance

If you were unable to attend and would like copies of the handouts; talk to a paraeducator that was able to come or call the R-O-D Office and ask for me, Lisa Peck.

Also...

The ParaEducator Committee has been working to enhance our Paraeducator Handbooks. Stay tuned for future information!

Congratulations



PPARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Jill Wolf

Honorable Mention Awards To:

Tawnya Felzer

&

Rhonda Mauer



PONDER THIS THOUGHT!

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible!"

(St. Francis of Assisi)

**YEARS OF SERVICE
RECOGNITION!**

5 YEARS

Dee Beyer

Angie Strothman

Pam Jones

Kim Harm

Michelle Mann

Melissa Myers

Lisa Brugge
Paula Scudder

10 YEARS

Anita Gaines

15 YEARS

Pam Armbruster

25 YEARS

Wanda Russell

Have Questions? Get your Answers!

Did you know that the Indiana Professional Standards Board has a link for Paraeducators. You can find answers to many frequently asked questions. If you want to check it out, surf the net to:

<http://www.in.gov/psb/parapro/faq.html>

This link will tell you more info on the Parapro Assessment and the federal statute.



PARAPRO INFO

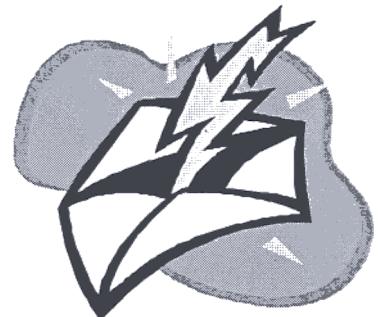
The passing score for the Parapro Assessment is 460. Paras must pass the test by January 8, 2006. There is no limit on how many times you may take the test.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS! If you have some ideas for the newsletter, please send them to :
Ripley-Ohio-Dearborn Special Education Cooperative

c/o Lisa Peck

P.O. Box 238

Sunman, IN 47041



Know the Signs

of Explosive Behavior



HERE'S YOUR SIGN!

Each individual expresses anger and frustration in different ways. Therefore you need to know what to look for in your students. Know your students and watch out for the warning signs for explosive anger. Here are just a few things you might look for:

- * **Clenching of the fists**
- * **Crying**
- * **Profanity**
- * **Increased rate of breathing**
- * **Turning Red**
- * **Increased heart rate**
- * **Glaring stare**
- * **Narrowing of the eyes**
- * **Abrupt Silence**
- * **Unusual Noises**
- * **Extreme Changes in behavior**



SUPPORT FOR PARAEDUCATORS WORKING WITH STUDENTS IN THE INCLUSIVE SETTING.

Some of you have asked about information for supporting students in the General Education Classroom. Well, here is music to your ears! The University of Vermont is working on a project that can be accessed via the internet. The content focuses specifically on the paraeducators role in the general education classroom. You will find activities to complete, quizzes to test your knowledge, resources, and abstracts, as well as, links to other sites. The web address is:

<http://www.uvm.edu/%Ecdci/parasupport/>



In addition, R-O-D has materials/videos that review the role of the paraeducator in the general education classroom. To obtain these materials talk with your building principal. Materials can be checked out through our office by the building principal. With questions feel free to give me a call at 812-623-2212.

Thanks for Your Interest,

Lisa

STICKS AND STONES



Remember the old saying "Sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me." How much truth is there to this? Words do hurt! Sometimes more than the sticks and the stones. YOU ARE THE PROFESSIONAL, you must remember that the words students say in anger are not personal. On the other hand, don't let their words get you caught in the trap of a verbal confrontation with students. Remember what you say and do can hinder any progress you will ever be able to make with students. Your words can hurt too!

GOALS IN DEFUSING POWER STRUGGLES WITH STUDENTS!

Beth Dusing and Nancy Clary reminded paras at our in-service to avoid power struggles with students at all costs! This diminishes any respect the child has for you and gives them the very thing they are seeking, an argument, ATTENTION! Keep these goals in mind when attempting to defuse explosive student behavior.

1. **Maintain the Dignity of the Student.**
2. **Maintain your Dignity as the educator.**
3. **Keep the student in the class.**
4. **Teach alternatives to aggressive behavior.**

If the safety of the student in crisis or other students is in jeopardy remove the other students. Continue to supervise the student in crisis. Follow your crisis intervention plan in your building. Never take a chance on the your own safety, the safety of the student in crisis. or other students.