Great, I have an EA!
Now What?

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Project Independence...

- Need for student independence
- Resource Constraints

PCS
What did it tell us?
- "Tools in their toolkit"
- Effective communication
- Role confusion
- Support and development

"Together with teachers, teachers’ assistants enrich the educational program by helping students gain the knowledge and skills they need to function in the classroom, the school and the larger community."

-Wolf Creek Public Schools

Guiding Principles in Mind

- Educational Assistants are active, valuable members of the educational community and a necessary resource for students.
- Educational Assistants are not surrogate teachers; proper supervision and guidance from the school based team is required.
- The intent of educational assistant support is to foster independence, not dependence.
Effects of Misuse of Educational Assistants

- Overly dependent
- Segregation
- Limited access general teacher
- Interference with peer interactions
- Loss personal control

“The least qualified staff members are teaching students with the most complete learning characteristics.”
- Kansas
Discuss

How does this video affirm or challenge your own understanding and experience in working with educational assistants?

Discuss

From your experience, give some examples of situations where educational assistants’ roles in the classroom effectively supported teacher effectiveness and student success. What were the factors that helped these work well?
Discuss
How would you respond to an educator, staff member or parent who believes that a particular student’s unique learning needs can only be met with the assignment of a one-to-one educational assistant?

Discuss
How can we support educators and educational assistants in building their understanding and confidence around more natural supports for students with disabilities?

Reflective Questions
Does your district have an Educational Assistant Handbook?

Are you able to utilize an EA for all students in the class?

Who is in charge of educational programming?
Where does the EA work with their students?

Who should communicate with parents?

Can you work with the student instead of the EA?
**Duties:**
- Qualifications
- Needs
- Teacher

**Practical Suggestions**
- Communicate
- Student needs and expectations
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Workplace
**Suggestions for what EAs can do**

- Build their capacity
- Provide an intervention (under teacher direction)
- Lead a group/activity
- Use visuals and prompts (Patrick Mulick)
- Promote Self-Management
- **Priming**

If a Teacher is doing this:  
EA can be doing this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>EA Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecturing</td>
<td>Model note taking on the board, draw the ideas on the board, take notes on overhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking Attendance</td>
<td>Collect and review homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving Directions</td>
<td>Write the directions on the board so that all students have a place to look for the visual cues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing large-group instruction</td>
<td>Collect data on student behavior or engagement or make modifications for an upcoming lesson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Communication must be HOT. That’s honest, open and two-way.”

– Don Oswald

Main points to discuss each month

Communication works for those who work at it.

GOALS + PLANS = SUCCESS
Scenarios

What would you do?

“A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary.”
~ Thomas Carruthers

Brainstorm Session

Positive Story of Independence

School Specific Scenarios or Questions

Takeaways From Today

Student Need
Closing Thoughts

“When 1:1 paraeducator is at their best, they may look like they are doing nothing at all, but very discreetly, they are supporting their student in the least intrusive manner.”

~Patrick Mulick

References

Inclusive Planning Guidelines for Teachers Working with Educational Assistants - Wolf Creek Public Schools

The Golden Rule of Providing Support in Inclusive Classrooms: Support Others as You Would Wish to be Supported - Julie N. Causton-Theoharis

Considerations for the Effective Use of Paraprofessionals in School - Kansas Dept. of Education

Teachers and Educational Assistants - Roles & Responsibilities - ATA
Thank you!
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How do you do Inclusion?

You don't do it...
...you live it.

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Winnie-the-Pooh
by A. A. Milne