7.1: Ability to participate as a member of the educational team when requested to attend conferences with families or primary caregivers, with an understanding of some of the concerns of parents. (7K1, 7S5)

Confidentiality Scenarios

Name: _____________________  Date: __________

The cases below describe situations in which problems related to confidentiality could develop. Discuss them with your facilitator and decide what would be appropriate ways to respond.

Scenario #1 Mrs. Richards has been a paraprofessional at Marquette Elementary School for ten years. Her three children all went to school there, and her youngest child has just entered the fifth grade. In Mrs. Yoshika’s classroom, where she now works primarily with students with disabilities, Mrs. Richards is friendly with many of the students’ parents. While at the grocery store a parent of one of the students in Mrs. Yoshika’s room asks Mrs. Richards about one of the students with disabilities. She says, “Surely she cannot keep up with the other children. This just can’t be the right place for her.” What should she do?

Scenario #2 Mildred Jamieson is a paraprofessional who works in a middle school. Allison, one of the students in the class Mildred is assigned to, attends the same church she does. Reverend Thomas, the new young minister at the church has counseled many youth and their families. Reverend Thomas has asked Mildred if she can provide him with information about how she thinks Allison is doing in school. What should she do?

Scenario #3 Mr. Feingold is a new paraprofessional who is assigned to an early childhood class. Before he started to work the principal told him that he was required to maintain confidentiality about the lives and records of the students he works with. He has just walked into the teacher’s lounge where he encounters Mrs. Snodgrass who has been a second grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary for 35 years. She knows most of the families and often talks about their lifestyles and child rearing in the lounge. She pushes Mr. Feingold to talk about Annie who is a student with a disability in his class. What should he do?

Scenario #4 You are the bus aide for Christina. She has been having behavioral issues in her classroom and the teacher has been in contact with her parents. You frequently see Christina’s mother when the bus drops Christina off after school. One day Christina’s mother asks you for an update on a specific behavioral issue. What should you do?

Scenario #5 You work as a paraprofessional in an elementary school. One of your job functions is to be an educational assistant for an autistic fourth grade boy, Joey. Your neighbor’s child is in the same class as Joey. You run into your neighbor at the grocery store and she is quite upset that a student named Joey is behaving poorly in her child’s class. She knows you work at the school and wonders if you might know this student and what is wrong with him. What should you do?