

REVIEW for COMPETENCY AREA 8: Professionalism and Ethical Practices

1. You have observed that a teacher has given a student four detentions for talking out in class, but when other students talk out in the class, he/she takes points off their participation grade. What should you do?
2. As a paraprofessional, how could you facilitate the inclusion of a student with disabilities into a general education classroom?
3. You overhear the special education teacher in your school talking about a student in the special education program to another teacher, who is not involved in the teaching or planning of this child's education. What should you do?
4. What is your definition of being a positive role model to students?
5. Describe a school staff member you have met or work with whom you think is a positive role model for students. What qualities does this person have? What does this person do to support the well being of students? How has this person influenced your job performance?

6. Paraprofessionals advocate the rights of the:
 - a. Parents: parents may disagree with the educational team
 - b. Individual students
 - c. Nobody: teachers should be in charge of the educational plan
 - d. A and B only

7. Which of the following are possible areas of risk when using one-to-one instructional assistants:
 - a. The student may become dependent on adults because of the close proximity and prompting by the staff.
 - b. An increased sense of ownership and responsibility by the general educator.
 - c. The student may feel encouraged to make their own choices and advocate for their rights.
 - d. None of the Above

8. Paraprofessionals can minimize the risks of one-to-one instruction in the classroom by doing the following:
 - a. Maintaining open lines of communication with the teacher.
 - b. Working with all students in the classroom to ensure success.
 - c. All staff in the classroom should be aware of educational goals, behavior plans, and communication.
 - d. All of the Above

9. Paraprofessionals should do the following to increase self-esteem in students:
 - a. Show favoritism with the students.
 - b. Verbalize student weaknesses in front of other students or adults.
 - c. Encourage and praise students' efforts with positive reinforcement.
 - d. None of the Above

10. Paraprofessionals should use the following guidelines to increase self-reliance and autonomy:
 - a. Remember the disability is not the major factor in a person's life. Each person has talents, interests, and their own personality.
 - b. Positive contributions to family and peers should be recognized and rewarded on a daily basis.
 - c. Point out positive characteristics, contributions, and capabilities of the students.
 - d. All of the Above

18. You are attending a church social. One of the prominent members is sitting at your table. You hear them say: "I don't think that they should be wasting all that money on programs for those handicapped children, they won't amount to anything anyway. My child is in the gifted program and there is never enough money".

19. The teacher is required to attend a professional meeting. You are left in charge of the students for a good part of the morning.

20. A happy life event can cause stress:

- a. True
- b. False

21. Which of the following are characteristics of teamwork:

- a. The willingness to support each member on the team.
- b. A sense of ownership and interdependence among team members.
- c. Knowledge and understanding of each person's role on the team.
- d. All of the Above

22. List three ways you manage stress.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

23. Take this time to explore what the school offers in terms of stress management, maintaining health, or job responsibility management. For example, community education classes are available, classes at your own school, professional development classes, or university courses.

24. **ACTIVITY:** Rob, the resource paraprofessional.

At this time, reflect on your professional goals and personal life goals. Are there stressors in your work/personal life that is inhibiting your performance and balance in your life? If so, how can you go about changing or dealing with the stressors in your life? Are there specific

work issues you need to discuss with your supervisor and/or a school representative?
Please write this answer down and keep in your portfolio.

Read the following scenario and think about how you would handle this situation. If you are taking this course on your own, write your thoughts in your portfolio journal. If you are taking this class as a part of an online group, discuss your thoughts with your peers.

Rob is a college student who works as a paraprofessional. He intends to become a teacher and is interested in taking on additional responsibility in the resource room. During the day Rob works with three different resource teachers. One teacher in particular, Ms. Collins, is elated that Rob wants to take on more responsibility. Ms. Collins frequently lets Rob take over instruction in the resource room, and allows him to plan the instruction without her supervision. In Rob's words, "I really enjoy working with Ms. Collins because she lets me do more than the other teachers do, but I am really concerned that she is taking advantage of me in the resource room. I don't mind planning the instruction, but I would appreciate some direction and supervision. Lately, Ms. Collins has been leaving the room to make phone calls to parents and hold conferences with other teachers. I feel uncomfortable being left alone in the classroom, but I hate to mention anything to her in case she takes away all of my responsibility?"

1. What should I do?
2. Is what Mrs. Collins doing ethically responsible?
3. Why or why not? Please type your answer here. You may take as much space as you like.
4. How would you handle this situation?

You are a paraprofessional and have been assigned to work with Owen, who is has a speech impairment. He uses a computer and writes his thoughts and feelings. You have never worked with a student with this specific disability. What can you do as a paraprofessional to increase your knowledge of the disability to erase the stereotypes you have and discrimination this student may feel in school?

25. Answer the following questions based on your experience and/or how your school and district counselor plan paraprofessional training.

1. Identify three ways to promote training for paraprofessionals
2. Why are professional development and self-evaluation important to paraprofessionals?
3. Why is it important for a paraprofessional's supervisor to be aware of skills and goals of the paraprofessional?
4. Identify the options for staff development in the workplace.
5. How does a paraprofessional development plan benefit paraprofessionals?

26. Today's schools consist of students of different cultures, religions, races, genders, and sexual orientations.

- a. Write about the climate of the school that you work in with respect to diversity. Give specific examples of the types of programs and activities offered for students with respect to diversity.
- b. Discuss some activities of programs that help promote diversity and discussion, and that could be incorporated into the learning that takes place in the classroom.

Some of the questions in this review are used with permission from:

Project PARA (n.d.). Paraeducator Self Study Program. Retrieved on June 18, 2002, from Project PARA Web site: <http://para.unl.edu/default.html>