

# Ten Tips for Special Educators

Collaborate, communicate and promote the participation of students with disabilities in the inclusive classroom.

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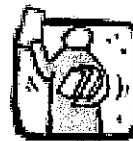
**Visit the regular classroom.**

Measure student progress and participation in the general education classroom. Your lesson modifications, adaptations, and learning goals will be more meaningful.



**Define roles and expectations.**

Go to classroom teachers and explain your role and how you can help. Specify what you will need to increase student participation. Discuss discipline and behavior expectations.



**Use the expertise of others.**

Do not waste time researching content areas. Solicit the classroom teacher's participation. Ask for the syllabus, learning objectives, outcome standards, rubrics and any other content information.

**Develop a rapport with others.**



Talk with teammates and administrators in person! Encourage others to voice concerns, hopes and fears. Even a two-minute chat between classes can establish collaboration.

**Watch your language!**



Teamwork stems from good communication. Use people-first language. Avoid acronyms or language specific to your field.

**Invite students to IEP's.**



Students who attend their own meetings understand their role and responsibilities. Ask students, family, friends, teachers and other professionals to share their goals and expectations with the student.



**Promote student-teacher relationships.**

Brag about student strengths! Tell classroom teachers how students can participate. Never apologize for placing a student in a general class or promise that a student will "not be a bother."



**Use friends as natural supports.**

Let peers walk together between classes, program communication devices and assist at lunch.

**Supervise classroom aides.**



Give paraeducators explicit instructions. Outline duties in detail. Always follow up and monitor how things are going in the classroom!

**Promote active, experiential learning!**



Alternative methods encourage active learning for ALL students. Assist classroom teachers plan cooperative learning groups, learning centers, and project-based lessons.