



OVERVIEW TIP SHEET

Paraprofessionals play a critical role in creating accessible, engaging, and language-rich learning environments for deaf and hard of hearing students. They support communication, reinforce instruction, and contribute to a school culture where every student can participate and thrive. This tip sheet outlines seven key areas of effective paraprofessional practice. Use it as a quick reference to reflect on your role and identify opportunities for growth.

1

Language Modeling & Communication

Effective paraprofessionals model strong ASL and English skills throughout the day and intentionally create opportunities for communication and language development across instruction, transitions, and informal interactions.

2

Instructional Support & Learning Facilitation

Effective paraprofessionals reinforce teacher instruction, support student understanding, and use a variety of strategies to help students engage with learning while promoting independence and problem-solving.

3

Student Access & Participation

Effective paraprofessionals continuously monitor student engagement and communication access and provide support that enables meaningful participation in academic, social, and extracurricular settings.

4

Initiative & Responsiveness

Effective paraprofessionals anticipate needs, identify barriers to learning or participation, and respond proactively while remaining aligned with teacher expectations and classroom routines.

5

Professionalism & Role Clarity

Effective paraprofessionals maintain professional boundaries, understand their responsibilities, and support teacher-led instruction while working within established roles.

6

Collaboration & Teaming

Effective paraprofessionals work closely with teachers, related service providers, and other staff to ensure consistent support for students across settings.

7

Community Engagement & Culture

Effective paraprofessionals contribute to school culture by building relationships across the school community, participating in school activities and events, and supporting students' sense of belonging and connection.