

*This is the beginning of a COLLABORATIVE shared document to discuss accommodations. These are taken from [Special Education Teachers](#) as collective ideas to help each other during these uncertain times.*

Please feel free to add and adapt, but do not delete anything as this is a collaborative document and all ideas are welcome. We will keep the document open for a few weeks until we make it a PDF to allow it to be shareable across many different platforms!

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# Things to Know as a First Time Special Education Teacher

- Grade Bands: K-2    3-5    6-8    9-12
- Types of Classrooms: Self-contained, resource, pull-out, inclusion, co-teaching

## ITEMS TO HAVE

- Laminator, laminating sheets & Velcro!!!
- Also instaink was a huge \$ saver for me.
- Have lots of reinforcement - wind up toys, character figurines (I used happy meal toys), magnetiles, cars and car ramp.
- Picture communication schedule cards. I use Boardmaker but there is also Symbolstix.
- Lessonpix... like board maker just cheaper if your district doesn't have a membership
- Before you make a bunch of great things, find out if the district wants to keep them if you used their materials to make them, including their laminating film. Also, you can never have too much cardstock
- You can never have enough Velcro!

## THINGS TO DO

- Make a folder for each of your gen.ed. colleagues for each student in their class that is also on your caseload include your student's IEP, I also like to include a sticky on page 1 of the students annual IEP due date, if they have a re-veal that year and their support schedule
- Folders help a lot w/IEPs and organization
- Make a parent contact binder

- keep up with your data collection. Find a system that works for you and teach your paras how to as well.
- Organize your IEPs by due dates. Print the notes page and highlight the items that were suppose to be done or in place. Look for the equipment that was ordered for them last year. Contact your service providers .
- -You have a lot of say over paraprofessionals schedules, make a schedule for each paraprofessional in your class!
- -Create a strong relationship with your mentor teacher!

### **CURRICULUM SUGGESTIONS**

- Structured Literacy - Orion-Gillingham
- Make sure your instruction schedule is good
- Get a VB-MAPP kit
- Get a F&P kit that is yours!

### **THE HUMAN SIDE OF TEACHING**

- Patience, love, and kindness for yourself and others this year. Remember the work-life balance.
- Boogers... there will be boogers EVERYWHERE 🤮 on a serious note, find the positive in every day, whether it's a learning experience or a fantastic day. Keep your students' needs first and you'll always be doing the best job you possibly can
- K-2 Sped Teacher here: Make sure you build a good relationship with the Students, Parents and Faculty/Staff
- Laugh! And get a good group of teachers to vibe with. Ones that are no drama and keep everything positive! Be super open to things going wrong to learn and grow from. Every single year, day and minute will be different and that's fine! Check the files in all of the special ed groups for great freebies
- Become friends with the secretary, custodians, cafe staff and nurse. You will want them all on your "team"! 😊
- Make sure you have good communication with the paras in the room. Make sure you explain clearly what you want them to do.
- If you have para, set a dedicated time to meet with them each day to communicate about students needs, successes, etc. I have a 10 min. time set to meet with mine daily and this is so valuable. I can find out what is working and what needs changed better this way, than waiting for them to find time to tell me these things on their own.
- Flexibility is key - be ready to be challenged but it is fun. If you have the students be part of setting the rules and consequence chart, they will be more receptive accepting said consequence.

- Love them first, and be creative about getting them out their seats and moving some.
- Don't take anything personal that a student does!
- Connect with parents and build that relationship.
- Don't over think it

### HELPFUL PLACES TO GO

- [https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCbAc0\\_6yP7RQuOPrkb0ODw](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCbAc0_6yP7RQuOPrkb0ODw) I think you'll find this channel very helpful! 😊 She also has a Podcast. 🎧



YOUTUBE.COM

[That Special Educator](#)

Enjoy how quickly those littles grow- each “aha” moment & celebrate, especially the little stuff... that turns into the big stuff! 😊❤️

- [Wow.boomlearning.com](http://Wow.boomlearning.com).



WOW.BOOMLEARNING.COM

Boom Cards <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/.../Which-Questions...>

- <https://cubeforteachers.com/> - a Free global K-12 bookmarking community. A place to share, store, and search for OERs.

Special education collections to follow, join, search:

1. <https://cubeforteachers.com/profile/melodybarton>
2. <https://cubeforteachers.com/folders/FD21hnNFxu2FpPqmFr7fG3LwRZvdOcNgr0Dgch2YWnWDOHswzoLsjUNS10fXq0kD>
3. <https://cubeforteachers.com/profile/CampKodiak>