JULIAN MERCER

PARAPROFESSIONAL

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Paraprofessional with 5+ years supporting students with learning differences in elementary classrooms. Delivers small-group instruction under teacher direction, applies behavior plans, and records progress that teachers use at IEP meetings.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Special Education Paraprofessional Aug 2022 - Present
Naperville Community Unit School District 203, Naperville, IL

- Support six students with IEPs in a self-contained classroom, delivering reading and math small-group lessons planned by the teacher.
- Record behavior and academic data every day, giving the teacher the information needed for quarterly IEP reviews.
- Use visual schedules and calming strategies that cut one student's classroom disruptions from about five a day to one or two.
- Completed Crisis Prevention Institute training and applied de-escalation techniques during transitions.
- Help students practice social skills in small groups and in the lunchroom, with two students now joining peers independently most days.
- Meet weekly with the speech and occupational therapists to carry out classroom strategies.

Classroom Paraprofessional Aug 2020 - Jun 2022
Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL

- Assisted a first-grade teacher with 26 students by leading reading groups and checking phonics progress weekly.
- Supervised lunch, recess, and bus loading and followed safety procedures during drills.
- Helped English learners practice vocabulary in small groups, with most advancing one reading level during the year.
- Built and laminated reading games and sight word cards used by the whole first-grade team.
- Met monthly with the teacher to review small-group data and adjust which students I pulled for support.

Teacher Aide Jan 2020 - Jul 2020

- Prepared materials, graded worksheets, and set up the classroom each morning to give the teacher more instruction time.
- Assisted students during the shift to remote learning by helping families log in and use the district platform.
- Learned school procedures for attendance, medication reminders, and incident reports from the office staff.
- Sorted and shelved classroom library books by reading level to help students pick suitable titles.

CORE SKILLS

Small-group instruction | IEP support and data collection | Behavior intervention plans | De-escalation techniques | Phonics and early literacy | Math support | Working with English learners | Visual supports | Classroom supervision | Assistive technology | Family communication | Collaboration with teachers | Confidentiality

EDUCATION

Associate of Arts in Education, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL

CERTIFICATIONS

Illinois Educator License with Stipulations, Paraprofessional Educator | ETS ParaPro Assessment | CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention | CPR and First Aid