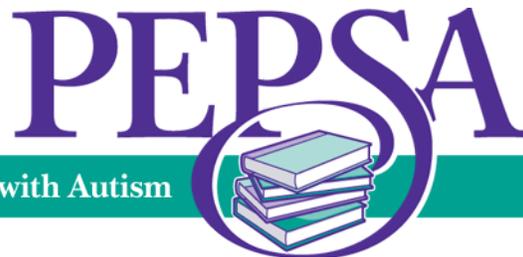




Florida Department of Education



Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism

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Effective Programs Instruction for Para-Professionals through Video Modeling

The purpose of this project was to enhance instruction for Para-professionals using video modeling. Para-professionals were videotaped working with students during regular classroom activities without any comments or prompting from me. Video tapes would be reviewed and recommendations would be given to enhance instruction.

To implement the project I purchased the Flip Video camera to video tape the sessions. I explained my project and asked which of our school Para-professionals would be interested in helping with this project. A letter describing the project and permission slips for videotaping was sent home to the students and Para-professionals. I handed out a list of free workshops offered through Florida Institute of Technology (FIT)-Scott Center for Autism Treatment and offered a ride to the workshops. I also gave out FAU-CARD Fact sheets on Discrete Trial Teaching, ABC's of Challenging Behavior, Errorless Teaching, Prompting, and Reinforcement. I proceeded to videotape a Para-professional and students working in the classroom on their classroom work. The tapes were reviewed by me through the software program of "FlipShare" and I discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the instruction with the Para-professional.

The outcomes from the project were: 7 out of 8 students returned their permission slips. 2 out of 4 Para-professionals returned their permission slips. 1 out of 2 Para-professionals was available for taping during class time. The Para-professionals did not participate in any of the FIT workshops. The Para-professionals took the FAU-CARD Fact Sheets and placed them in their personal box in the classroom but did not read the materials. The one Para-professional that participated cooperated and demonstrated his instruction. He was willing to be videotaped working with various students within the classroom. A total of 8 sessions were taped on various days with the same Para-professional working with various students with autism.

The project enhanced my classroom by demonstrating to the Para-professional his strengths and weaknesses when working with students on the autism spectrum. The Para-professional is aware of various strategies and has worked to improve his instruction after reviewing the tapes and discussing prompting and errorless teaching.