Getting Started:
Working with EC Students

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Mid-Year Teacher Symposium
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PURPOSE

This session will help you SURVIVE and THRIVE as a first year teacher.

You will receive practical advice, tools, and suggestions to get you started!
“Teaching should be your passion calling”.
Getting Started

- Resource room, self-contained classes, or inclusion setting.
- To make your job easier and more rewarding…
  - Ensure the welfare of your children
  - Create the proper education setting
  - Find the right information
Organization is Key!

Student Information
- Contact info
- “The parent is always the first teacher”.
- Medical info
- IEP at a glance
- Data collection
- Behavior plans

IEPs
- “Know your ABCs”.
- List of due dates
- Meeting checklists
- Compliance guidelines
Organization is Key!

Classroom Information
- Student Schedules
- Staff Schedule
- Procedures
- Emergency substitute plans

Lesson Plans
- Template that works for you (DI & UDL)
- Different templates for whole group, small group, individual, paraprofessionals, etc.
- Include all staff and students
- “Minimize the disability & maximize the ability”
Set Up Your Routines Early

- How is the classroom structured?
  - How do we arrive and dismiss?
  - How do we transition?
  - How are different areas of the classroom defined?
- What is our classroom management system?
  - "No smile before Christmas (classroom management is a must)."
  - How do I earn a reward?
  - When will I receive a consequence? What will it be?
- What are the expectations in different places, groups, etc.?
- What are the expectations for paraprofessionals and other staff?

* Write these down specifically! This helps clarify your routines and expectations for you, administration, substitutes, paraprofessionals, etc. *
Set Up Your Routines Early

- “Inclusion is about belonging.”
  - Create environments of acceptance (in which everyone belongs).
  - Create environments that are supportive.
Use Your Resources

- Don’t be afraid to ask for help!
- “Find a good mentor, but everyone is not right for you.”
- Meet regularly with a mentor
  - Be sure that you have access to a mentor within EC
- Utilize your district support
- Ask to observe other classrooms
- Use technology! (Pinterest, Teachers Pay Teachers, Twitter chats, teacher blogs, etc.)
Use Your Resources

- Council for Exceptional Children
- NCCEC - North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children
Recognize you can’t do it all at once

- Always stay on top of the non-negotiables
- Prioritize and focus!
- “There is never enough time, but it is Ok.”
Recognize you can’t do it all at once

- Consider a monthly focus to specifically work on
  - August: Organizational set-up
  - September: Classroom environment
  - October: Lesson planning
  - November/December: Behavior management
  - January: Reflection and changes from first half of the year
  - February: IEPs
  - March: Home/school communication
  - April: Assessment and data
  - May: Reflection and planning for next year!

- “You will make changes over and over, so don’t feel “locked in” to one thing.”
Rush’s Words of Wisdom

- Know your worth (but you don’t know everything).
  - Be a reflective practitioner
- Learn to forgive (yourself & your students). Tomorrow is another day.
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Resources

- Jordan McNeill, EC Program Specialist, Alamance-Burlington Schools

The Special Educator’s Toolkit, by Cindy Golden
  - Step-by-step process for setting up and managing an EC classroom

Show Me the Data, by Rina Marie Leon-Guerrero, Chris Matsumoto, and Jaime Martin
  - Tons of ready-to-use (and editable!) templates for data collection

www.teacherspayteachers.com
  - Great resource for finding organizational forms, checklists, and templates in addition to lesson materials