

# A New Paraprofessional Job Description

## HOW TO REALLY SUPPORT A CHILD

Listen to them. *Learn from them.*  
Let them learn. **SUPPORT BELONGING.** Watch them.  
*Be there, but give them space. Hear them.*  
*Encourage independence.* Always speak kindly.  
Let them fail sometimes. *Stop yelling.*  
**LOVE THEM.** Ask, "What do you need?" *Handle them with care.*  
**BE SAFE.** *Be trustworthy.* **Step back.** *Encourage interdependence.*  
*Remember, this is a person first. Be respectful.* **Relax.**  
**BE A LEARNER YOURSELF.** *Allow choice.*  
If they are sad, wipe their tears.  
*Attribute the best possible motive consistent with the facts.*  
**Be gentle.** *Assume competence always.* **ENCOURAGE SOFTLY.**  
If they are loud, be quiet.  
*Set students up to be successful.*  
*When they have difficulties, kindly redirect.* **SPARK CURIOSITY.**  
*Watch them thrive.*  
*Give them space.*  
**Follow their lead.** *Do not control.*  
**BREATHE.** *Lead by loving.* **Speak softly.**  
*Assume friendship is possible.*  
*When students are happy, step back.*  
*Ask, "How can I best help you?"*  
*Allow students to create together, laugh together, and have fun together.*  
*Help students connect.* **Redirect softly.**  
*Share positive stories with students' parents.*