

## Key Ideas



### Make sure ...

1. teams take time to explore the roles of all their members.
2. the roles of team members are appropriate and match the skills of each individual.
3. there is agreement within the team and with the school leaders about the roles.
4. team members have enough opportunities to work together.
5. team members have opportunities to learn new information and skills.
6. teams are working together toward shared goals.

Summarized by Emma Nelson and Lisa Woodward of CDCI

#### Source:

Giangreco, M. F., Suter, J. C., & Graf, V. (2011). Roles of team members supporting students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. In M. F. Giangreco, C. J. Cloninger, & V. S. Iverson, *Choosing outcomes and accommodations for children: A guide to educational planning for students with disabilities* (3rd. ed., pp. 197-204). Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes.

Center on Disability and Community Inclusion  
 Vermont's University Center for Excellence in  
 Developmental Disabilities  
 Research, Education, and Service



The University of Vermont  
 College of Education and Social Services



## CDCI Research into Practice



### Name of Article:

**Roles of Team Members Supporting Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Classrooms**

Summarized by Emma Nelson and Lisa Woodward of CDCI

#### Source:

Giangreco, M. F., Suter, J. C., & Graf, V. (2011). Roles of team members supporting students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. In M. F. Giangreco, C. J. Cloninger, & V. S. Iverson, *Choosing outcomes and accommodations for children: A guide to educational planning for students with disabilities* (3rd. ed., pp. 197-204). Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes.

### What was this Article About?

Information in this article comes from current research and written information on teamwork and the roles of team members.

It is meant to help explain the roles and responsibilities of team members who support students with disabilities.

It can be used to clarify key roles of team members, help people work together, and consider topics for future learning and support.

***A look at what we have learned***

# What We Learned

## What are some important roles of classroom teachers and special educators?

- Create a classroom where all students are valued members.
- Show students, by teacher example, how to accept and include people who are different from each other.
- Take time to learn about who your students are, how they learn, and what is important to them.
- Make sure students with disabilities have the same learning opportunities as their classmates.
- Play an active role in planning for students with disabilities in the classroom to be sure all students can join in every learning opportunity and use classroom materials.
- Use a variety of teaching approaches so that students with disabilities can work on goals that are important for them within activities with their classmates.
- Encourage students with and without disabilities to work together and help each other.
- When your team gets stuck, problem-solve together.
- Lead, train, and support paraprofessionals in the classroom.
- Special Educator only: Leads planning for students with disabilities, such as setting up meetings with students and families and making sure paperwork is done.

## What are some important roles of students and parents?

- Share student's strengths, interests and needs with school team to work together to identify learning goals.
- Works with team to set goals and make decisions for education and transition planning.

## What are some important roles of administrators

- Clearly communicate the importance of working together, clarify the roles of team members, support inclusion, and share the responsibility for educating all students.
- Provide opportunities for team members to work together and learn new skills.
- Make sure team members have the supports they need to do their jobs.
- Support staff, students, and families if difficult situations occur.
- Lead school improvement plans for supporting the inclusive education of students with disabilities.

## What Roles Do All Team Members Share?

- Make sure students have safe and healthy places to learn.
- Work together with all members of the team to teach students.
- Participate actively as team members and share ideas.
- Continue to learn and apply new skills to improve teaching and learning.
- Be an advocate for all students.

## What are some important roles of paraprofessionals?

- Help students: (a) with classroom work and homework, (b) make friends, and (c) by providing personal care supports (if needed) that are planned by teachers and special educators.
- Help teachers: (a) organize and maintain the classroom, (b) supervise students (e.g., on the playground, in the cafeteria), and (c) by observing and recording student behavior and schoolwork.
- Be open to doing a variety of different tasks to help the school, teachers, and students when needed.

## What are some important roles of related service providers?

- Make sure services are supporting the students' goals and there are opportunities to learn in all school environments.
- Make sure that adaptations used fit in the regular classroom, school setting, and classroom activities.
- Work together with families and support them by sharing information and skills.
- Help the team to make changes in positioning, communication methods, and adaptive equipment for meaningful participation in the general education setting and curriculum.