

Robin Fogarty & Associates can Bring this Seminal Workshop to Your Site!

Topic: PD for Paraprofessionals

Para-Perfect: Don't Be so Helpful! Challenge Students to Think!

Don't be so helpful! What a strange thing to say to paraprofessionals whose valued role is to *help* students. Yet, the goal of those "helping hands" is to encourage students to think; to think about what to do next, to foster student responses that demonstrate where they are and how they plan to move forward. In short, the paraprofessionals guide the learning, while, at the same time, building student confidence and skills as capable learners. A quick look at how to move students along, "without doing it for them" shifts the role from one-on-one teaching, to that needed facilitator of student learning. It's about guiding, coaching and celebrating student successes. It's about being paraperfect.

Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Replace telling answers or next steps with question cues
2. Know, understand and use key phrases and words of encouragement
3. Learn strategies to build student skill and confidence one step at a time

Replace telling answers or next steps with question cues

- What do you think you should do next?
- Where are you stuck? What can you do to get unstuck?
- Tell me what you are thinking?
- Is this like something you've seen before?
- Draw what you see in your mind.

Know, understand and use key phrases and words of encouragement

- Remember, to fly, you must get off the wire.
- I know you can do this.
- You have good ideas. Go ahead; try one.
- You're a good thinker. What comes to mind?
- Your brain makes connections. It's telling you something.

Learn strategies to build student skill and confidence one step at a time

Strategy 1: Take a Chance!

You're brain is smarter than you are.

Strategy 2: Begin with Pairs!

The person doing the talking is the person doing learning.

Strategy 3: Just Do It!

Start talking Start writing! Start drawing! Start typing!

Strategy 4: Revisit the Goal!

Don't make it harder than it is! Less is more!

Strategy 5. Look for Clues!

Thinking is simply connecting the dots!