

# Ten Tips for Therapists

Work together with the classroom team to promote the participation and productivity of students with disabilities.

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## Write relevant goals and objectives.



Create a few clear goals that apply to multiple classroom or lunchtime activities. Include specific directions for the staff. Continually monitor student participation and adjust procedures accordingly.

## Share your expectations.



Tell students and teammates what you expect of them and why. Ask the classroom or special education teacher what they expect in return.

## Observe the classroom environment.



Survey teaching styles and classroom activities. Your findings will assist you to create goals and objectives that fit for your students.

## Ask for feedback.



When things do not go as planned, ask why. Listen to the suggestions and concerns of other staff members. Use input from those that serve the student on a daily basis to refine your interventions and modifications.

## Build a rapport with others.



Have teachers and classroom aides refer to you by your name, not your professional title. Ask to be included in team meetings.

## Use as few adaptations as possible.



Multiple contraptions overwhelm the classroom staff. Bring on additional high-tech or low-tech adaptations slowly, and let the staff get used to using it.

## Keep your promises.



Deliver the equipment you promise to provide. Show up when you say you will. Always give notice of cancellations.

## Try things out in person.



Implement new adaptations or techniques in the classroom. Do not delegate this important job. Being there in person enables you to perfect the intervention. Once you have refined the intervention, train the classroom or therapeutic assistant to implement it. Re-evaluate interventions frequently.

## Stay connected.



Busy schedules and packed caseloads make it difficult to keep regular visits to the classroom. Take time to leave a note or a message for the school staff. Keep them updated with the student's progress.

## Visit the lunchroom.



Check out the cafeteria during lunch time to discover opportunities for students to practice activities of daily living, socialization and mobility.