

Professor,

I know that I have never had a class with you aside from student teaching seminar but I feel as if you would be able to help me with a few things.

I am a brand new preschool teacher and I am teaching summer school currently.

The group of students that I have are all special needs with an IEP to some extent. Some of them severely disabled, some of them high functioning but I'm struggling to keep the school day running smoothly. Between our biters, runners, hitters, and screamers, I just always feel as if it is complete chaos. I know that the other classrooms experience the same things since many of these students have never been in a classroom OR daycare setting before. So not only are they new to this, we don't have a lot of information on them to serve them better.

Some students have IEP goals that are completely unrealistic for the child at this point in time. For instance, I have a little guy, called Enrique, who may not be able to hear. Enrique's therapists, his mother and I are all in consensus, that he may be deaf (but there is a lack of medical care). Unfortunately, some of his IEP goals state that he should be able to follow through with verbal commands.

The reason that I'm writing you is because I'm just as at loss. I feel the overwhelming need to educate these students to the best of my ability, but I need some advice from somebody who has more experience than I. Even the aides who have been at the school for a long time agree, that this is a normal day to day experience with this group of students. but I truly feel there is more than can be done.

The director is very helpful as we are trying to get Enrique into a more appropriate program. His mom has a serious anxiety disorder, and does not like to leave the house. This means that Enrique has not seen a doctor in well over two years. The school psychologist did a home visit, which I wasn't able to attend, although I would have loved to, in order to give mom information, regarding getting Enrique tested appropriately. Once an appointment is set up, I will personally take Enrique to his appointment to ensure he is getting all the help that he needs.

I have been having some struggles with my aides. They seem to do things that are against my personal philosophies, even after directly speaking to them about it. When I go on lunch for a half an hour, I come back into the classroom, and my aides have videos playing, with a container of jelly beans. She gives candy to the children "who are sitting nicely."

I will be at a brand new preschool location in the fall with a new team of aides and assistants but for right now, I have to figure out a way to get my current team to respect and follow my ideas and not continue to do what the previous teacher did.

Thank you so much for taking your time to read this. Thank you so much for getting back to me!

Alicia