

6 FAST FACTS

Preparing Paraprofessionals to be Job Coaches

1

Paraprofessionals play an important role in facilitating the transition from school to work for students with disabilities.

2

Under the supervision of a teacher, paraprofessionals may assume the role of a job coach to support students during community-based work experiences.

3

Although job duties vary, the primary responsibilities of paraprofessional job coaches are providing students with instruction on work and work-related skills, and ensuring positive relationships with the employer and employees.

4

It is important to provide job coaches with a comprehensive training program that encompasses effective job coaching strategies (e.g., instructional techniques, guidelines for job development, collaboration skills).

5

Job coaches benefit from ongoing training, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and regular performance feedback.

6

School personnel responsible for supervising job coaches need dedicated time in their schedule to observe job coaches and provide training and support.

This fact sheet was developed by the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign through a contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. Information presented may not reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

