

SPED Paraprofessional Basic ASL

Job Description: This position would support a student who has multiple disabilities along with specialized communication needs in the educational setting by providing language reinforcement and instructional support throughout the school day. You would work under the direction of the Intervention Specialist, classroom teacher, and Teacher of the Deaf. In this role, you would be expected to learn basic American Sign Language (ASL) alongside the student during specialized sessions with the Teacher of the Deaf (TOD) and embed the signs across all school environments—including academic instruction, elective courses, lunch, and transitions—to ensure consistent communication access beyond TOD sessions.

Key Responsibilities:

- Participate in direct sessions with the Teacher of the Deaf (TOD) and Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) to learn basic ASL vocabulary, visual prompts, and visual-gestural strategies alongside the student.
- Facilitate and reinforce newly learned signs across all classroom and non-classroom environments (e.g., academic instruction, elective courses, lunch, and transitions).
- Support the student's understanding of classroom instruction, directions, assignments, and activities.
- Reinforce vocabulary, concepts, and communication targets presented during lessons and TOD sessions.
- Assist peers and staff in understanding basic signs and gestures to encourage positive social interaction and peer inclusion.
- Assist with academic tasks, organization, and classroom participation as directed by licensed staff.
- Encourage student independence, self-advocacy, and self-regulation skills throughout the school day.
- Provide communication and behavioral support during academic instruction, elective courses, lunch, and transitions.
- Collaborate with teachers, the Teacher of the Deaf, and related service providers regarding student needs and progress.
- Document observations, sign usage, communication prompts, and student progress when requested.
- Follow IEP accommodations, behavior plans, and communication goals as assigned.

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent required.
- Valid Ohio Educational Aide Permit (or eligibility to obtain prior to hire).
- Prior proficiency in American Sign Language is **NOT required**; candidate must demonstrate a strong willingness and capability to learn basic ASL alongside the student.
- Experience working with students with special needs preferred.

- Ability to work collaboratively with students, staff, and multidisciplinary educational teams.
- Strong communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- Ability to maintain professionalism, flexibility, and confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and district guidelines.

Preferred Skills:

- High enthusiasm for learning basic functional sign language and visual communication techniques.
- Ability to adapt communication and prompt levels to meet the student's language level and learning needs.
- Understanding of role boundaries between teacher, paraprofessional, & aide.
- Ability to consistently recall, model, and reinforce learned signs throughout the entire school day.
- Patience, consistency, and a student-centered approach.

Work Environment: This position is based in a school setting and requires movement throughout the building and school grounds, including classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasium, and community-based/field trip settings.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to sit, stand, walk, and move throughout the school day.
- Ability to lift, bend, sit at student level, and assist students as needed within district guidelines.
- Visual, hearing, and manual dexterity sufficient for learning, modeling, and reinforcing effective basic ASL communication.