

The Purpose Of Schedules For Students

*Comments By Rocky Vitale, School Resource Teacher,
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The schedule is the foundation of the child's program. It is the object that everyone can see and touch. It is the result of a great deal of work. It is the gathering of information and data that is the guts of the effort. You take all this matter and turn it into a real object. But the number of pieces it takes to assemble this can be overwhelming. The schedule allows the chaos to be manageable. This schedule is able to guide and coordinate an army of people at times. It gives everyone from parents to the principal a calmness that everything is under control. It gives you the ability to feel comfortable to carry on with the other 40 schedules or IEPs.

The schedule becomes a multi-task document. It assists in the goals of the student, it arranges position changes, it allows for personal care, and it arranges break time for the assistants. It allows the parent to walk into school and locate their son/ daughter working on the goals that the IEP planned on for this student. Grapevine in this, the ability to communicate effectively and efficiently. This keeps the schedule moving in a positive and progressive manner. Without the communication the schedule will break down and become a very negative experience for everyone, especially the student. It takes a great amount of work to get to this point. There have been a lot of meetings and a great deal of time and thought process put into this document. Once this is completed it makes the rest of the journey easier, but not complete.

It is a living document that needs continuous monitoring and refining. It does not run on its own. Everyone involved in this schedule has a part in making sure the best is coming from this piece of work. After all this work to get to this point it is not this schedule that runs the day, it is the student. It is not the bells we react to, it is the student. If there is a learning moment for the student and the bell sounds, let the learning moment occur, there will always be another bell.