ESC Staff Spotlight

Jeri Cushman, Early Childhood Intervention Specialist

Co-Teaching and Collaboration

I co-teach with Stacey Patterson, a General Education Teacher in a General Education Classroom housed at Triad Elementary. We are equally responsible and accountable for the classroom, sharing equal roles in planning, instructing, and assessing students resulting in a more inclusive classroom. We support each other by complimenting each other’s strengths and weaknesses, building camaraderie and dividing the workload. This experience has allowed me to grow professionally as well as personally. Co-teaching in an inclusion classroom has provided me with opportunity to have:

- Opportunities for one on one interaction between students, teachers and therapists, resulting in stronger relationships.
- Students with disabilities have access to the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment.
- Students still have opportunities for specialized instruction when needed in the classroom setting.
- All students benefit from the additional support, resources, and diversity in the classroom.
- Increased independence for students with disabilities.
- Stronger, more creative, lessons due to teachers sharing the planning process with each other.
Student Engagement and Learning Styles

We all learn differently and it is important to understand and embrace learning styles!

The Value of Collaboration with Colleagues

As I continue to evolve as an educator and are presented opportunities to grow and be challenged by how to implement instruction in the classroom I have learned not to be afraid to seek the input of others who may have prior knowledge, specialized education and training to guide me to serve all of my students to their fullest potential.