

Learn More About The Many Professionals Who are Involved in Educating Children

Many professional employees are involved in education our children. But when the topic is schooling, most of us usually think only of the classroom teacher. Granted, teachers are key players and likely are the most visible professionals in the educational process.

Other adults, however, join forces with the classroom teacher in filling the important role of educating children. These adults make up three separate and distinct employee groups: administrators, specialist, and classified staff – all of whom work under the policy-making direction of the school board.

Building administrators, for example, serve a vital function in facilitating the work of the classroom teacher. By providing quality staff development activities and growth opportunities and becoming active proponents of instruction, principals play a dramatic part in educating our children.

Specialists include special area teachers like elementary school art teachers, physical education instructors, and music faculty; special education personnel like the school psychologist, speech therapist, coordinator for the gifted program, and instructor of students with learning disabilities; and others such as counselors and library media specialists. Their involvement often proves crucial in the lives of students, and their intervention makes the difference between students' success and failure.

Classified staff members frequently have contact with children. Therefore, the opportunities for them to assist with the process of education are many. A cafeteria worker who insists that children use good manners, a playground supervisor who teaches and reinforces good sportsmanship and fair play, a study hall supervisor who sets a positive learning climate, a bus driver who not only teaches safety but also practices it, a secretary who



models care and understanding by providing a sympathetic ear – all contribute to the education of children.

It is obvious that, within this diverse collection of adults who populate schools, not all provide classroom academic instruction for children. It is important for us all to know that the school staff takes a much broader perspective in school when they speak of education. The three Rs – reading, writing, and arithmetic- still are heavily emphasized, and this direct academic instruction is primarily shouldered by teacher. Other Rs such as responsibility, respect and personal regard are also taught. Frequently, it is in these areas that administrators and classified personnel play a crucial role.

All children need personal attention and help in order to feel worthy and capable. Bus drivers, as well as teachers, take time from their routines to provide individual help and attention to children. Secretaries, as well as special education personnel, care for and nurture students daily. Through these overt actions, students learn about caring, support, friendship, cooperation, respect, problem solving, good manners, decision



making, responsibility, and numerous other things. And when students learn to work cooperatively, feel better about themselves, take responsibility for their own actions, solve problems creatively, make good decisions, and care about others, they are more likely to do well academically.

This united effort of significant adults at school, plus the cooperative support of parents at home, makes it clear that many individuals are involved in educating our children. It is this diversity of people which helps facilitate what we hope will become a life-long experience with learning for your children. Our mission in our schools revolves around teaching and learning. And it takes many different people to accomplish most effectively this lofty mission.

