**Common Co-Teaching Issues**

**Whose students are these?**

* Must be addressed before co-teaching begins
* Gen Ed teacher – responsible for all students
* How do these responsibilities change when the special ed teacher is in the room?
* Under what conditions do these responsibilities change?

**Who gives grades? How do we grade?**

* Special Ed teachers often grade based on effort, motivation, and abilities of students.
* Gen Ed teachers typically grade based on a uniform set of expectations that are only slightly adjusted to reflect issues of effort, motivation, and student abilities.
* We must make joint decisions about grading Special Ed students in Gen Ed classrooms.
  + - * + In-class assignments
        + Tests
        + Homework
  + Together, we will develop guidelines for both students and parents.

**Whose classroom management rules do we use?**

* Discuss management styles and roles expected of each other in maintaining a smoothly running classroom.
* Subtle classroom management – on-going routines of running a classroom – must be jointly established
* How will extreme behaviors be handled?

**What space do I get?**

* Designated work/teaching areas
* Desk or chair – a base from which to work – contributes to position of authority

**What do we tell the students?**

* Told that they will have two teachers
* Told that both teachers have the same authority
* Consider introducing the Special Ed teacher as a “learning abilities” specialist OR simply as Mr. or Mrs. Smith – who is “another teacher that will be working with us in our room”

**What do we tell parents?**

* Co-teaching is most successful when parents are brought in early and are part of the planning process.
* Help parents understand that all children benefit from the extra support in the classroom.

**How can we get time to co-plan?**

* Most pervasive concern
* Particular concern of special Ed teachers who are working with more than one gen Ed teacher
* Ideally 45 minutes of uninterrupted planning time each week; protect that time and be there.
* Work with administration to think creatively outside the box

(LDOnline, The ABCDE’s of Co-Teaching. Sharon Vaugh, Jeanne Shay Schumm and Maria Elena Arguelles.

<http://www.Idonline.org/ld>\_indepth/teaching\_techniques/teac\_coteaching.html)