



## “Para-professionalism”

Orientation and mobility paraprofessionals are responsible for guiding students, and for monitoring and supervising their student’s mobility using the techniques taught by the orientation and mobility teacher.

Orientation and mobility paraprofessionals always use correct human guide technique to guide students. Sometimes this technique is modified by the orientation and mobility teacher. Check with the orientation and mobility teacher to answer questions about the correct guiding technique for your student.

Orientation and mobility paraprofessionals have to be ready to intervene easily and quickly for safety. Therefore, when you supervise your student’s mobility:

- Always keep both hands free of coffee cups or other items.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices must be used in accordance with NYC DOE regulations. They must not be used during instructional time.
- Wear footwear so you are steady on your feet if you need to move quickly for your student’s safety.
- Personal items must be carried in bags that do not swing from arms or shoulders.

Orientation and mobility paraprofessionals take direction for assignments from the classroom teacher, mobility teacher, TVI, and school administration. If you have questions about an assignment follow these steps:

- Review your assignment with your classroom teacher and share your questions
- Communicate with your student’s mobility and vision teacher
- Communicate with the EVS administration

Orientation and mobility paraprofessionals do not telephone, write to, or e-mail parents. Teachers will provide you specific directions about parent contact, if necessary. Maintaining this line of communication is essential.

Orientation and mobility paraprofessionals adhere to student confidentiality. Do not talk about students in their presence, except to give praise. Wait until you can talk privately with colleagues to discuss student issues.

Paraprofessionals are mandated reporters in accordance with NYC DOE regulations. Contact information is available from your site administration.