SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS AS A NEW PSYCHOLOGIST

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• The School Psychologist’s Survival Guide
  • Author Rebecca Branstetter

• Fred Rogers
  • He would’ve been an awesome school pscyh
My Background

• 25 years in public education
  • Elementary teacher
  • Elementary principal
  • School psychologist in my 2\textsuperscript{nd} year

• My career transition from principal
  • Prevention and intervention/RtI (the earlier the better)
  • Leveling the playing field
  • School as the stage for social justice
Who are you?

- Students (Where?)
- Currently in internship or practicum (Which district?)
- Practicing school psychologist (1\textsuperscript{st} year, 2\textsuperscript{nd} year, beyond)

- Introductions….name, current role
Interactive “workshop” session…

Today’s goal:

*Interactive opportunities to share our ideas and experience with each other*
Guiding Themes - Overview

Managing the Many Roles

- Consultation and collaboration
- Prevention, intervention, RtI (tiered instruction)
- Organizational tips and tools
- Preparation for your job search
Roles of the school psychologist
[Branstetter]

- Assessor
- Consultant
- Intervention Specialist
- Counselor

**Key question:** What does your district say about the role? What does your principal (and district supervisor) see as your role? *FIND OUT*
Prioritizing your time

[Should be consistent with supervisor’s perspective]

Assessor

• Caseload considerations*
• Clear legal timelines for evaluation aka…

**COMPLIANCE**

What is your current caseload or supervisor’s caseload for evaluation?

* Students assigned to you; assessments to be completed/year
Prioritizing your time

Consultant

- Formal (meetings)
- Informal (Do you have a minute?)
- Not about knowing the answers…it’s about knowing the right questions

- What are the benefits of investing your time in the consultation role?
Prioritizing your time

Intervention Specialist

• Even before the time of RtI...

• RtI
  • Targeted, data-driven intervention (at least 20 minutes per day)
  • Building-wide systems
    • What currently exists in your district/school(s)
    • This influences your role (are you leading this charge?)

Bottom line: You must play an active role in Leadership and Prereferral Intervention Teams

What does the implementation of RtI look like in your district/school right now?
Prioritizing your time

**Counselor**

- District and school expectations for you
- Comfort level
- Caseload
- Physical space
- Are there counselors in your building? (elem v. secondary)
- Do you already have a relationship with this student?
- Crisis counseling (all hands on deck—talking points)

*What is your current role or your supervisor’s role related to counseling?*
Organizational Tips and Tools

• Calendars
  - Master Triennial Calendar (see sample)
  - Will you be working with IEP case managers to combine 3-year re-evaluations with the IEP so that they coincide
  - What is your school calendar platform? (USE it)
  - Schedule everything you can in advance! (August calendar meetings)

• Checklists for each student (see sample)

• Weekly to-do lists organized by building (see sample)

• Multiple buildings?
  - “The mobile office” for student files, test kits, office supplies
  - The trunk of my car
Organizational Tips and Tools

What are some strategies and tools that you have seen and/or used?
Job Search and Preparation

- Emergency certification during internship
  - “Learn while you earn”
  - Do not take it on if you don’t feel ready

- Do your district research
  - Consider the various roles and how they are prioritized
  - Is it match for your skills and preferences?
  - Where is the district in the shift toward intervention/RtI
  - Where are the principal/staff in this shift?