

To Whom It May Concern

You have reached out looking for information in regards to how best to support and improve SEN in schools. I have been a classroom assistant for coming up on 12 years now, most of which was in mainstream education, in Sept 2024 I moved into a new classroom within a SPIMS unit that already had 3 established classes and this was the 4th, wanting more of a challenge than I faced in mainstream but never in my wildest imagination did I expect the challenge my colleagues and I were and continue to be faced with. We are assaulted daily with no training to support us because apparently this training is only provided in special schools, we do not have any training in manual handling for intimate care reasons, we have little resources, no space to take children who are dysregulated as the area we do have is constantly in use by other children who have become dysregulated and too volatile to be in with their peers. We are working in extremely heightened conditions and in constant fight or flight mode, this has an adverse effect on not only staff but those vulnerable children we are there to support and protect. We recently put in for a job evaluation to be moved to the ASEN rate (as with this comes the training we so desperately need), with the EA and got rejected due to insufficient evidence, I will never understand this as 10 of our 34 children have actually been recommended for a special school setting but given a space in SPIMS as this was the only place for them or through parental choice, we also provided numerous photos of some of the injuries we have been faced with due to extremely challenging behaviour, we are expected to support and implement programmes from speech therapists and occupational therapists but this is apparently not enough.

In short, how do you make SEN better in schools?

Start by providing appropriate training for the staff already in them, start by supporting the staff in them, in turn the staff will be better equipped to support the children.

Get SPIMS staff onto the appropriate NJC level and job title and actually provide us with RELEVANT training to help us do our jobs better.

In our setting alone we have 15+ staff, with one to ones included, some extra brought in to help alleviate some of the pressure we are under daily, some children requiring 2 to 1 at times and yet NOT one member of staff has the appropriate training to manage the level of needs of some of the children placed with us.

The EA claim they are not using SPIMS to throw children into any placement to alleviate the pressure they are under to find placements but we have first hand experience and bruises and marks on us to prove this being a downright lie.

Regards

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Sent from my Galaxy