#### IRB SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSAL

Knowledge and Use of Research-Based Practices for Students with Autism by Paraprofessionals

1. Approximately 100 paraprofessionals working in classrooms serving students with developmental disabilities (including autism and mental retardation) will be recruited for this study. No special classes of participants will be used, and it is anticipated that participants will represent a range of ethnic/racial backgrounds. Given that frequently more women are paraprofessionals than men, it is expected that a slightly higher proportion of women will participate in this research.
2. Participants will be recruited by first obtaining permission for school districts from which participants are sought. Once district level permission is obtained, a list of paraprofessionals will be requested and each paraprofessional will be personally contacted via email or flyer offering them the opportunity to participate. Those that wish to participate will be given a consent letter; following consent letter receipt participants will receive either a hard copy or email copy of the survey to complete and return to the researcher (hard copies will include pre-addressed and stamped envelopes for ease of return).
3. Participants will complete a 34-item survey (30 items using a Likert type rating, four open-ended items). Items will be analyzed based on grade level (elementary vs. secondary), number of children served daily, demographic location (e.g., urban, rural), and years in the field. Please see attached copy of the survey.
4. Potential risks are minimal; participants may feel uneasy when they encounter concepts they do not know or that they do not use. They may skip any questions that they do not wish to answer.
5. Confidentiality will be maintained by including no identifying information on the survey. The list of potential participants will be kept In a locked file cabinet in the researcher’s office; no on other than the researcher has access to this office. The list will be destroyed once all participants have been given the consent and the surveys.
6. Benefits to individual subjects are minimal and include knowledge of current best practices for students with autism. Benefits to society include increased knowledge of the role paraprofessionals play in the education of students with autism as well as their use of research-based practices.
7. There will be no compensation provided to the participants
8. Benefits outweigh risks.
9. Because school districts require IRB approval before considering proposals, agencies will be contacted once IRB approval is granted
10. Researcher is a faculty member
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12. The research has not been approved by another IRB
13. The researcher and her assistants (including other faculty) will have access to completed surveys.

**In addition to this synopsis, you are required to submit all relevant documentation for review. This may include, but is not necessarily limited to: 1) recruiting documents (e.g., flyers, letter, e-mails, brochures, etc.), 2) a consent form, 3) an assent form, 4) letters of approval from relevant organization(s), 5) surveys/instruments/questionnaires, esp. those created by the researcher, 6) a list of questions that the researcher may ask (e.g., focus groups questions, questions for qualitative studies, etc.), and 7) all documents in translated versions.**