Teach California

Ask a Teacher Virtual Interview Series

The following is a text transcript of the *Virtual Interview of teacher Michael Bernardis,* which is made available by the California Department of Education's Special Education Division.

Describer: Header reads – Make a difference of a life time. Teach. - Teach California – Your first step toward becoming a teacher is just one click away.

Describer: A teacher sitting in his classroom gym participating in an interview.

We work very closely together, not only me on the team but we have a physical therapist, a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, and a nurse. We have a teacher that works specifically with children that have visual difficulties as well as a teacher that works with children that have either deaf or hard-of-hearing. The whole team together plus infant educators who are para-educators who we work with very closely. We all do the home-based program but we have to coordinate together.

Describer: Students in classroom gym with teacher's aide

Because we see the same child and we have to provide consultation to the parents and so we all have to be on the same page. We meet approximately once a week as a team.

Describer: Administrator with parent and student in classroom gyn.

Our administrator is very supportive of us, and she, our principal, is more like a mentor to us in many ways. There is also the challenge where she is the boss, you know, and there are times when she has to take that role.

Describer: A teacher sitting in his classroom gym participating in an interview

If there something we have to be doing as an organization. There may be a new state regulation or mandate that we need to implement so she will say, "we need to be implement this." Generally she is very supportive in regard to our working with the children. Many times, if there is a difficult situation with parents, she'll get a call and she's very caring and supportive of the families and will also be very supportive of us too in that situation. I have found that the administration has been very, very helpful.