Common Questions that Teachers Working with Paraprofessionals May Ask

- 1. How does a teacher hold a professional and confident position when the paraprofessional is old enough to be her mother?
- 2. What if the paraprofessional has worked in a job for some time and the teacher is new?
- 3. What if the paraprofessional is a relative of someone who holds a high position in the district or in the community and uses indirect and subtle ways to intimidate the teacher?
- 4. What if the paraprofessional has had the opportunity for training on a topic or strategy that a teacher has not yet had?
- 5. What does a teacher do if a paraprofessional sides with a student against the teacher in the presence of the student?
- 6. What does a teacher do if a paraprofessional initiates professional and personal contact with parents that is not cleared with the teacher?
- 7. What does a teacher do if the paraprofessional sabotages the teacher-student relationship?
- 8. What does a teacher do if the paraprofessional uses behavior management or academic strategies contrary to the lead of the teacher?
- 9. What does a teacher do when he has 3 aides in his special education classroom and they are fighting with each other?
- 10. What if overreliance causes isolation?

Source: McGrath, M. Z., Johns, B. H., & Mathur, S. R. (2010). Empowered or overpowered? Strategies for working effectively with paraprofessionals, *Beyond Behavior*, 19 (2), 2 - 6.