



RANAN CHATTERJEA

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Ranan has been a SpEd teacher for over 18 years! He is currently on assignment in Chicago.



What's the best advice you were given as a new SpEd teacher?

"Get to know the children. They are not numbers. Be that person that they seek out for advice or extra help with school work."



What are you most passionate about professionally?

"Professionally my passion has always been about reaching students emotionally and academically and I believe these two go hand and hand. Teachers must be the student's second parents. My passion is about working with students that perhaps for years have been left behind. They need the environment in which they know that the classroom is an area where they're going to get the assistance on their work without judgment or questions. We see the drive in their eyes, however, so many students need a teacher that is willing to take time out to have that conversation when times are tough. I firmly believe that when a child is in a good emotional state, they are more willing to take a risk with schoolwork. I feel my job is to help them understand that their inner strength can be nurtured and they begin to realize that it's time to utilize all the resources that surround them. All of this takes time but the end result is priceless."



What are the biggest benefits of Cumberland Therapy as your employer?

"The professional staff have been excellent with their concerns or questions I may have with my new position. If I have a need or concern, my questions are given serious consideration and helpful advice. Cumberland found the right fit for me as a teacher. Kind of a big deal!"



What are your favorite toys/tools to use in your therapy room?

"Stress balls work!"



How do you stay up-to-date on best practices?

"I spend time online reading scholarly articles about trends in schools. What can I take away from this and incorporate into my teaching style? I also feel that is important to talk with my colleagues as they have expert advice."

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