

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Teaching Assistant



The Industry

Teaching Assistants (TAs) work in nurseries and schools supporting children with educational and social development issues across a range of abilities. Many schools employ TAs with specialisms, for example literacy, numeracy or special educational needs.

Most work is in the classroom but also includes lunchtime supervision, outdoor activities or school trips. Day-to-day duties vary and can include supporting children in class, classroom activities e.g. setting up equipment, tidying up classrooms, creating displays of pupils' work or helping on school outings or at school events. Dress code is usually smart depending on school policy, and the types of activities you undertake each day.

TAs work with teachers, speech and language therapists, professionals (educational psychologists, social workers) and parents or carers to ensure the best support for children.

www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview

The National Association of Teaching Assistants www.napta.org.uk

Professional standards for teaching assistants <http://maximisingtas.co.uk/assets/content/ta-standards-final-june2016-1.pdf>

Skills and Requirements

Being a TA can be an enjoyable job if you enjoy working with children as it is so varied in its requirements. To be successful you will need to be calm and patient as well as having:

- A non-judgemental attitude and respect for diversity
- An ability to motivate and inspire children and a passion to see them succeed
- Ability to build good working relationships with pupils and adults including parents, carers or others
- Ability to manage groups of pupils and deal effectively with challenging behaviour so other children are not disrupted from their learning
- Good organisational skills and keeping to deadlines
- Flexibility, adaptability and creativity to engage
- Good literacy and numeracy skills
- Teamworking skills to support the teacher deliver effective teaching and learning
- A good sense of humour as children can be very funny.

Working with children requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check which your employer will do for you.

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Working and Learning as a Teaching Assistant



Job Roles & Progression

Many schools and nurseries employ trained TAs. These jobs are highly competitive so gaining experience of working with children first is an advantage.

Study Programme

Level 2

Supporting Work in Schools.

Level 3

Supporting Teaching and Learning.



Further study

FdA

Teaching Assistants (Primary).
Supporting Teaching and Learning Assistants in Secondary Schools.



Apprenticeships

Intermediate and Advanced Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools.



Career roles

Higher Level Teaching Assistant, to help plan lessons and supervise other support staff. Specialise e.g. Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching & Learning in Schools (SEN). Many TAs train to become a teacher.

Calculation including problem solving

Tasks

1. Assist children studying Egypt to make accurate models of famous Egyptian landmarks.
2. Work out total costs and timings for a proposed school trip to a local museum.
3. Get resources ready for a lesson e.g. photocopying or measuring out ingredients.
4. Work out the costs of resources for each child to make their own pizza.
5. Create displays of childrens' work to fit a given classroom wall.

Links to GCSE Maths

1. **Geometry and measure** (3-dimensional shapes - pyramids; 2-dimensional shapes - areas, triangles; units of measure - using standard units, units of length).
2. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction, multiplication, division).
Geometry and measure (units of measure - using standard units, units of time, pricing).
3. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction, multiplication, division; fractions - fraction arithmetic).
4. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction).
Geometry and measure (units of measure - using standard units).
5. **Ratio, proportion and rates of change** (ratio in context - scale factors).

Communication, all forms

Tasks

1. Read a story and help children to understand the viewpoints from two characters' perspectives.
2. Plan a lesson using texts from 3 different types of media e.g. girls playing rugby.
3. Meet with parents and the support worker to plan the support for a child with special needs.
4. Help children to plan a script for making a video to promote their course at open day.
5. Review library books as to the suitability for children by age and gender.

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Analysing fiction** (language and structure - structure, literary devices).
2. **Analysing non-fiction** (non-fiction text types - information documents; responding to a non-fiction text - analysing an extract)
3. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience, purpose; personal presence - body language, eye contact).
4. **Writing** (writing non-fiction - a script; context, audience, purpose; organising information and ideas - paragraphs; literary techniques - descriptive language, persuasive devices).
5. **Analysing fiction** (responding to a fiction text - analysing a fiction extract).