

The Diploma

IN PUBLIC SERVICES

How to become a... Teaching Assistant

£12,400-£13,900 per year

Promotion to: higher level teaching assistant (HLTA)

Job Description:

Teaching assistants (TAs) work with teachers. They support children with their work, help with classroom organisation and assist with administrative tasks.

Teaching assistants may also be called teacher associates, classroom assistants, classroom aides, general assistants and learning support assistants. TAs work in primary, secondary and special schools, although they will perform different roles which will depend on the type of school they work in and the support they are required to provide. This can broadly be divided into supporting children, supporting the teacher, supporting the curriculum and supporting the school.



Personal Competencies



For more information try visiting:
www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
www.tda.gov.uk/support.aspx
 Your local LEA, local schools and council websites as well as local newspapers for current vacancies

Training and Qualifications

No formal qualifications are required; previous experience of voluntary or paid work with children, or completion of an NVQs at Levels 2 and 3 for teaching assistants may be requested. Often level 2 in literacy and numeracy is required or preferred. CRB clearance is essential, although employers will often do it at the start of employment.

Sally, 19, completed her Higher Diploma in Public Services at her local Further Education College. Now she is planning to apply for an apprenticeship for teaching assistants. This Diploma really helped her to work out what she wanted to do and what skills she would need.

For her ASL, Sally took a Level 2 Award in British Sign Language and a Level 2 Certificate in Communication with Deaf People as she knew these would be very valuable in any role. She researched the job and knew that she would probably need to have literacy and numeracy at Level 2, so she worked very hard at her functional skills, particularly maths, and was delighted to get good results in all three subjects.

Sally knew she wanted to work with learners, but wasn't sure which particular area of work she wanted to do. She spent her work experience in her college with the Learning Support department, working with learners who needed support in the classroom. Although Sally found the work interesting, she realised that she would prefer to work with children and this informed her decision to investigate routes from her Diploma to becoming a teaching assistant.

Sally hopes to complete her Apprenticeship and progress to a Higher Level Teaching Assistant role, perhaps even to become a primary school teacher in the future.