

Factsheet 18

Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools

National Apprenticeship Service

Overview

This Apprenticeship is about providing support in the classroom. Learning support staff, such as teaching assistants or cover supervisors play a vital role in today's classrooms by making sure students get the most out of their lessons. They work with teachers, carry out duties like lesson preparation, and work with small groups or individuals, allowing the teacher to concentrate on teaching the class. Some learning support staff specialise in areas like music or support for learners with additional needs.

Learning support staff numbers have been rising steadily over the past few years and indications are that they will continue to do so in the future. Increasing workforce numbers together with the age profile of the current workforce means there will be an ongoing demand for learning support staff in schools.

Starting salary (once qualified) ranges from £12,000 - £17,000.

What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a mix of real work and learning. Apprentices earn a wage and get experience whilst working towards a number of qualifications. An Apprenticeship follows a Level 2 programme and can lead onto an Advanced Apprenticeship which is a Level 3 programme.

Example Job Roles as an Apprentice

- Teaching Assistant
- Classroom Assistant
- Learning Support Assistant
- Special Needs Teaching Assistant
- Behaviour Support Assistant/Co-ordinator

Apprenticeship Framework

There are a number of elements to each Apprenticeship and this is called the framework. Each Apprenticeship framework has three main strands:

- competence based element
- technical element
- skills element

The three strands are sometimes accompanied by additional qualifications to give the most relevant skills and knowledge required for the job.

Competence Element

Apprenticeship – NVQ Level 2 in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (STLS)

Advanced – NVQ at Level 3 in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (STLS)

Technical Element

Apprenticeship –
Level 2 Certificate in STLS

Advanced –
Level 3 Certificate in STLS

Skills Element

Apprenticeship –
Communication Level 2
Application of Number Level 1
ICT Level 1

Advanced –
Communication Level 2
Application of Number Level 2
ICT Level 2

Other Additional Study

Employment Rights and Responsibilities

Apprenticeships Available

- Apprenticeship (12-15 months) ✓
- Advanced Apprenticeship (minimum 24 months) ✓
- Higher Apprenticeship ✗

Progression Routes

- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)
- Foundation degree

Already Employed?

Are you currently employed but not working towards qualifications? Speak to your employer about converting to an Apprenticeship and ask them to call 08000 150 600 for more information.

For more Information and to Apply

Visit:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

or for further information go to:

www.tda.gov.uk/support/careerdevframework.aspx

If you require further advice or support on Apprenticeships please contact your local Connexions or Careers Advice Service.