



WHAT MAKES A GOOD SUPPLY TEACHING ASSISTANT

INTRODUCTION

The key success of a teaching assistant (TA) in the classroom is their ability to foster independence and success in a child, without over supporting them. Support can be provided in a range of ways and should always have the end goal of increasing independence:

- Learning
- Communication
- Social and emotional
- Physical needs
- Care and supervision

HELICOPTER SUPPORT

- Support whole class
- Move around the room
- Respond to the needs of students
- Provide feedback to the child

IMPORTANT

This is not just checking for compliance, facilitate learning by asking questions and moving learning forward.

FACILITATOR SUPPORT

- Support a small group or individual
- Facilitate working together through modelling and questioning
- Feed in key aspects of the lesson outcomes
- Aim to build knowledge

IMPORTANT

This is not just behaviour management of a group.

VELCRO SUPPORT

- Close support of an individual
- Model learning behaviour
- Review visual timetables
- Facilitate respite from session where necessary

IMPORTANT

This is only to be used in extreme circumstances as it can limit a child's ability to develop independence.

DON'T FORGET

- Promote good learning behaviour with all pupils throughout the lesson
- Monitor and record pupils' responses to learning activities and feedback to the teacher
- Provide detailed and regular feedback to teachers on pupils' learning and development

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TEACHER

This is often the most crucial part of success in the classroom for a teaching assistant. Having the following information from the teacher can maximise outcomes for children:

- Oversight of planning for the class
- Planning for individual children and how it needs to be adjusted for them
- How planning links to a child's individual plans
- How children in your class learn best, e.g. which require concrete, pictorial, abstract explanations and scaffolds
- Where you can be most effective at the different parts of a lesson
- What interventions are going on for children and how they can be linked to learning in the classroom

Make sure you offer support and guidance on the following areas of classroom life:

- Create and maintain a purposeful, orderly and supportive learning environment
- Assist the teacher with the preparation of learning materials
- Form strong relationships with parents/carers