

SPECIALIST TEACHING ASSISTANT LEVEL 5



Blended learning
including day courses



Course duration
18 months (21 months with Apprenticeship Assessment)



EPA Organisation
Steadfast



Training time
32 sessions



Funded learning
Funded via the Apprenticeship Levy



Apprenticeship level 5

OVERVIEW

Specialist Teaching Assistants work across educational settings to inspire and support learners, advancing progress and achievement through tailored activities that foster inclusion and belonging. They draw on research and expertise to enhance their specialist area, working closely with learners, families, professionals, and external agencies, while also helping to evaluate learning and support the development of others.

Specialisms may include SEND, social and emotional wellbeing, or curriculum provision such as early reading, maths interventions, EAL, or forest school. By collaborating with teachers, SENCOs, social services, and specialist organisations, they ensure learners receive personalised support and improved outcomes.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- As an apprentice, you will have approximately 32 educator sessions throughout the duration of your apprenticeship.
- You will see your educator every 3 weeks for your online sessions. These appointments provide the opportunity to discuss progress, assign tasks and prepare you for your apprenticeship assessment.
- There are 4 mandatory day courses that you must attend as part of your apprenticeship. The topics are:
 - Regulation and Guidance.
 - Advancing Learning.
 - Planning and Assessment.
 - Professionalism and Communication.

(These day courses are delivered using Microsoft Teams)

As a Level 5 apprentice, you will tailor your learning by choosing a specialism that suits your setting and interests:

- **SEND Specialist Teaching Assistant**
- **Social and Emotional Well-Being Specialist**
- **Curriculum Provision Specialist**

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Individual employers may set their own entry requirements. The candidate must already be employed for over 16 hours per week.

- If a candidate is 16-18 they must have achieved maths and English at Level 2 prior to completion of the course. This is something that can be completed with us if needed.
- If a candidate is 19+ and hasn't achieved in Maths and English GCSE before enrolling, it is up to the employer to decide whether these qualifications should be attempted.
- The candidate must be employed in a suitable role.

TYPICAL JOB ROLES

- Specialist teaching assistant
- SEND teaching assistant
- Social and emotional well-being teaching assistant
- Specialist education support

COURSE CONTENT

Equality & Inclusion

Promote equality, diversity, and positive values while following organisational policies, legislation, and frameworks.

Specialist Learning Support

Apply specialist knowledge to plan, deliver, adapt, and evaluate activities and resources that meet individual learner needs.

Assessment & Progress

Monitor and record progress, support assessments, and refer to other professionals when required.

Collaboration & Guidance

Work with colleagues, parents, carers, and external agencies to improve outcomes and provide information, advice, and guidance.

Behaviour & Wellbeing

Anticipate and manage behaviour to promote self-regulation, independence, and wellbeing across learning environments.

Professional Development

Reflect on practice, share expertise, and contribute to the training and support of colleagues within the specialist area.

EMPLOYER & LEARNER SATISFACTION

97%

of Apprentices would recommend us*

99%

of Employers would recommend us*

APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT

The apprenticeship assessment includes:

- A face to face 2-hour practical observation - this can be split in to discrete sections held on the same working day
- A 30-minute Q&A within the 2-hour observation time
- A 60 minute professional discussion supported by a portfolio of evidence

YOUR COMPLETE CAREER PATHWAY

Teaching Assistant
Level 3



Specialist Teaching Assistant
Level 5 with HLTA

ADDED VALUE - FREE HLTA QUALIFICATION

The Level 4 HLTA qualification is ideal for experienced teaching assistants looking to step up into a more senior support role. Recognised nationally, gaining HLTA status is a proven progression route for school support staff who want to contribute more directly to student achievement and classroom delivery.

What to expect?

- To complete this additional qualification you will need to attend an additional 3 mandatory day courses.
- Your role will need to allow you to deliver 50 hours of teaching including lessons based on literacy, numeracy and ICT.

Key Benefits:

- Helps provides confidence around leading classroom sessions.
- Develops skills to work closely with teachers and raise standards in schools.
- Leads to recognised Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) status.

