

What role will the Teacher Assistant play?

- Supporting whole class work?
- Supporting group work?
- Leading a group?
- Leading a year group within a vertically grouped class? E.g. Y1/2 or Y3/4 where the teacher takes 1 age group and the T/A another
- Working with a group for practical work – helping them do the experiment
- General classroom support
- Supervising a writing or worksheet activity?
- Preparing classroom materials

Having made decisions about the role of the TA in a class further questions arise as to what they will be assisting with and where will their prime focus lie? Such questions as: -

1. Will the TA be supervising and assisting small groups of activities set by teachers?
2. Will the TA be using their discretion to guide the children, or will they be following a text book or worksheet?
3. Will the focus be on developing pupil's social and co-operative skills?
4. Will they be implementing behaviour management policies?
5. Will they be looking for early signs of bullying and disruptive behaviour?
6. Will the TA be helping with the inclusion of all children
7. Will the TA be assisting children to stay on task?
8. How will the TA be supporting knowledge development?

Assessment

Will the Teacher Assistant be involved in assessment? (They frequently are)

- What are they assessing? How are they recording this? What feedback do they give the teacher and when?
- Behaviour and time on task?
- Science knowledge?
- Science Skills?
- Scientific Investigations?
- The child's ability to write about the science activity?
- To complete a task

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Maximising teacher assistant support

- Some teachers especially in KS2 deliberately organise their science teaching when they have a teacher assistant available. This allows 2 adults to support practical work.
- Some teachers use their T/A support exclusively for Literacy and Numeracy.
- Some teachers give detailed guidance to T/As, while other teachers expect them to understand what is going on through experience and osmosis of engagement (the children will explain).
- Does the teacher assistant want this level of responsibility?