

How do we ensure that teaching assistants understand the needs of students in their class?

Teaching Assistants support both students' learning and behaviour. Because they are with the students throughout the day they get to know and understand the students' needs and abilities. They are able to produce learning support materials, develop personal routines for specific students, monitor their responses throughout the day, motivate students to complete their work, explain and reinforce new concepts and question students in order to lead and extend their thinking. They often provide guidance and reinforce positive behaviour and ensure that individual programmes are implemented consistently.

In collaboration with the teacher, the teaching assistants assess and mark students' work and identify where they may be having difficulties. They support students' access to learning through an understanding of their individual literacy and numeracy skills and the support required in these areas across all subjects.

They contribute to reviewing students' individual learning plans, behaviour management strategies, risk assessments and communication profiles as well as contributing to Annual Review reports or Education, Health and Care Plans.

They see students at work and play and become a key member of staff that your child knows he/she can go to when feeling upset.