

Teaching Assistant NVQ

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) for Teaching Assistants were first approved in 2001 and began to be accredited to the national qualifications framework summer 2002. Though by law there is no formal qualification needed to be a Teaching Assistant, due to the vast increase of interest in this field it has become far more important that staff hold the right qualification.

The Government sees Teaching Assistants as fundamental in its drive to improve pupils' education therefore it is vital that they are given the opportunity, through the correct training to improve the quality of service that they provide.



STAR has offered Teaching Assistant (TA) NVQs since 2003; to present, it has delivered over 1500 from Derbyshire right up to Northumberland, receiving excellent feedback and a high achievement rate from learners.

Vennessa Duggan from Asquith Primary School in Leeds started her career as a parent helper at a nursery school where she was visited by Dr Monika Tomkiss from Education Leeds who introduced the qualification to her.

Shortly after this Vennessa embarked on a TA level 2 course with STAR; on completing this she proceeded to also complete a TA level 3 and is now currently working through her Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) which she started in September.

Commenting on the qualification and support from STAR Vennessa said:

'I really enjoyed doing my level 2 and 3, they gave me the opportunity to actually sit back and think about what I was doing in my job and about the policies of the school and government.'

'By completing these qualifications my confidence has grown so much and I really think that it has helped my work.'

'The support that I got from STAR was fantastic; I don't think I could have gotten this far without my assessor Catharine Skelton. I can't wait to get on with my HLTA, after that I may even look to see what else I can do!'



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For Sylvia Gill, a Teaching Assistant from Chapel Allerton Primary School in Leeds, achieving her TA NVQ levels 2 and 3 was also highly beneficial:

'After hearing about the Teaching Assistant NVQs from my Deputy Head I knew right away that I wanted the knowledge that I felt I would gain and I realised how important the qualification would be for my employers.'

These NVQs were introduced to us at a time when my job was uncertain due to redundancies and I think that doing them gave my school a real reason to keep me on.

When I first started my level 2 I struggled a little but with the help of my assessor and all her support I really began to enjoy it. My knowledge and confidence has increased and by doing both NVQs I have gained some great ideas on how to improve my work.'

For more information please do not hesitate to contact STAR using the details below.

