Supporting Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Mainstream Schools

COMMUNICATION TA SCHEME
NAMED TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR SLCN

The Speech and Language Therapy Service established a scheme to identify and support ‘Communication Teaching Assistants for SLCN’ in 2014. Communication TAs act as a resource for colleagues in delivering small group targeted intervention for children with speech, language and communication needs. Every mainstream school is encouraged to identify a Communication TA. Some schools identify more than one TA to take on this responsibility.

Individual or small group targeted interventions are part of the School Offer. These interventions are short term, targeting specific speech, language or communication skills with built in opportunities to generalise skills into everyday situations. They should be delivered by the most appropriate person in the most appropriate place, by staff with the necessary competences and confidence gained through support or training. Communication and liaison between the TA delivering the intervention and classroom staff is vital in ensuring generalisation of skills.

The role of the Communication TA:

✓ Includes:
- Acting as a resource and support for colleagues (i.e. class based teaching assistants) in delivering small group interventions
- Developing an in-depth knowledge and understanding of a range of practical ideas to support generalisation of skills back into the classroom
- Coordinating equipment and resources

✗ Does not include:
- Delivering all small group targeted interventions for SLCN in a school
- Knowledge and understanding of all interventions, i.e. at a universal or specialist level
- Overall organisation and management of targeted interventions
- Acting as the link or being responsible for liaison with outside agencies

The Speech and Language Therapy Service coordinates this scheme across the county. The programme of support includes a termly cluster meeting in each district for registered Communication TAs. Each cluster meeting includes free support, training and advice.

If you’re not registered, it’s not too late to join the programme
Registration form overleaf
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COMMUNICATION TA REGISTRATION FORM
‘NAMED TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR SLCN’

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<th>School:</th>
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<tr>
<td>District:</td>
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<td>Named Teaching Assistant/s:</td>
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<tr>
<td>If more than one please indicate key stage/s each TA is responsible for</td>
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<td>Contact details:</td>
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Please return all forms to:
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