

About The Effective Teaching Assistant Online Course - Course Description

This professional, skills based, online training course is for Teaching Assistants working to support students with SEND in the primary or secondary classroom. Completing the course will help you to be more effective in supporting students with SEND.

The course is written and presented by Abigail Gray, SEND consultant and author of *The Effective Teaching Assistant* and *Effective Differentiation*. It's delivered across 13 self paced modules, each of which contains 3 lessons aimed at helping you to gain knowledge, consolidate your learning and try new strategies.

- Lesson 1: LISTEN - Key knowledge and skills.
Watch the video.
- Lesson 2: THINK - An independent activity or reflection.
Download the materials, watch the video and try the reflection activity.
- Lesson 3: APPLY - A shared activity for the training room or classroom.
Download the materials, watch the video and try the activity.

Take a look at the [course overview with timings](#) for full details on the timings for the course, including video lengths and recommended activity time.

Introduction – The Effective Teaching Assistant Online Course

To get started, watch the video introducing the course.

Module 1 – The Professional Role of the Teaching Assistant (TA)

This Module explores the professional role of the Teaching Assistant in supporting students with SEND in the classroom.

Module 2 – The Benefits of Effective Support

Module 2 explores how a research informed approach benefits students.

The module introduces The Mr CHUFI agenda of 7 key teaching and learning activities. Abigail explains the significance of each activity for children with SEND and how TAs can use it as a prompt to classroom support.

Module 3 – Underlying Difficulties

Module 3 explains common memory and processing difficulties that hamper classroom achievement and educational outcomes. The module explains the impact of the following on learning:

- Poor working memory
- Poor phonological processing
- Slow speeds of processing

Module 4 – An Introduction to the DR KEEPIT Approach

This is the beginning of the skills section of the course. Each of the next 8 modules explores 8 adaptations that can be made by TAs in the classroom.

Lesson 1 watch the video *(there is only 1 lesson in module 4)*

Module 5 – Dialogue

Module 5 explores how a TA can adapt their classroom talk to support a struggling student.

Strategies suggested are designed to support students with a range of SEND and those who are experiencing the negative impact of poor working memory, poor phonological processing and slow speeds of processing.

Module 6 – Resources

Module 6 explores how a TA might utilise and adapt resources to support students with additional needs.

Module 7 – Key Points

Module 7 explores how a TA might support students by identifying the KEY POINTS in lessons.

This module explores the need to shift the focus away from task completion to the acquiring key knowledge and skills that lead to progress and achievement.

Module 8 – Engagement

Module 8 looks closely at how TAs can support support student ENGAGEMENT in learning.

The activities in this module invite TAs to consider how children with SEND can be actively encouraged to attend, to participate and to develop intellectual curiosity.

Module 9 – Encouragement

Module 9 explores how a TA might offer ENCOURAGEMENT to the students they support.

It explores strategies for accessible and motivating feedback.

Module 10 – Proximity

Module 10 looks at where TAs place themselves when working with the students they support. It explores a flexible model of PROXIMITY that promotes student independence.

Module 11 – Identifying Barriers

Module 11 explores how TAs might contribute to identifying the barriers to learning faced by students they support.

Module 12 – Task Chunking

Module 12 explores TASK CHUNKING. The techniques that TAs can use to help students break down more complicated tasks into simple steps.

Module 13 – Collaborating with Teachers

Module 13 explores the opportunities for TAs to work in collaboration with teachers. It provides a scaffold for those all important conversations between teachers and TAs about student support.

ABOUT THE COURSE CREATOR

Abigail Gray began her 30-year career in Special Educational Needs as a teaching assistant. This led to a life of teaching and school leadership. Since 2013 Senworks, her educational consultancy service, has specialised in improving SEND provision in mainstream schools nationwide; offering mentoring, training and advice to school leaders looking to improve the outcomes of students with SEND.

Abigail is the author of two books; 'Effective Differentiation' (Routledge 2018) and 'The Effective Teaching Assistant' co-authored by Melanie Wright (Routledge 2020). She has also produced a range of online courses for SENDCOs, teachers and TAs. Abigail writes and speaks about SEND provision, differentiation and adaptive teaching on a national and international stage. Abigail writes and speaks about SEND provision, differentiation and adaptive teaching on a national and international stage.