

AUTISM ANGLIA

Job Description

Job title:	Learning Support Assistant – Doucecroft School, Eight Ash Green, Colchester
Reporting to:	Class Teacher and Senior Learning Support Assistant
Responsible for:	No other staff members
Hours of work:	Monday to Friday 1.30 am – 1:30 pm Term time only 10 hours per week 39 weeks per annum <u>plus</u> 3 days per annum during school holiday periods

Autism Anglia is a well-established charity providing direct provision for people within the Autistic Spectrum from pre-school to adults. We provide a range of services to enable people with autism to live as independently as possible and experience choice and inclusion in society. The ethos of our work is based on the following five key themes.

- To provide skills and strategies to people with ASC
- To always adopt a personalised approach
- To have a shared understanding of a person and their strengths and needs
- To have power with rather than power over a person with ASC
- To see people with ASC as independent and valued citizens

Main Purpose of Post

To directly support the students in their learning environment; in the classroom, during activities and during break periods and lunch times as part of a team of Learning Support Assistants. Working closely with the Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant at all times you will assist and contribute to the lessons, as well as play an active role in completion of schemes of work, individual student plans and care plans. Working with small groups of students across the age and ability range both in group settings and individually on the school site and out in the community. Taking an active role in supporting students involved in a range of physical activities

throughout the academic year as part of the enhanced Physical Education curriculum including swimming, horse riding, ice skating and much more.

Specific Responsibilities

- To contribute to the smooth running of the educational setting
- To comply with and promote to others, the policies and procedures relating to the school, specifically those relating to child protection, safeguarding, health and safety, security, confidentiality and data protection.
- Maintain an awareness of, and interest in, the developments within the field of curriculum development for students with autistic spectrum disorders
- Provide a high quality and specialised service to students
- Treat each student with respect and dignity whilst being sensitive to individual needs, strengths and difficulties
- Under the direction of the Class Teacher, help prepare for lessons, contribute towards and carry out schemes of work and Individual Student Plans (ISP) and Care Plans
- Assist in keeping careful and accurate records
- Retain an up-to-date knowledge of each student's stage of development with regard to assessment, communication, IEPs and management programmes and share information with colleagues as might be appropriate
- Support the Class Teacher in planning and preparing for educational visits and school journeys and subsequently accompany students on such visits
- To have a good standard of fitness with the ability to participate in a wide range of physical activities, e.g. swimming, sailing, ice skating and horse riding.
- Ensure student and staff safety is maintained at all times. Being able to manage challenging and unpredictable situations is essential
- Accompany students, as appropriate, on visits to doctors, dentists etc
- Work with students on an individual or small group basis alongside colleagues (and in the company of visiting parents, professionals and volunteers) in class, at lunch time and during break periods
- Analyse and simplify tasks and present information in a meaningful and appropriate manner to each student
- Carry out playground duties in line with school policy
- Liaise closely with the Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant at all times
- Ensure teaching materials and resources are suitable, in good order and that an adequate supply is available for the task
- Ensure the classroom environment and shared facilities are kept in a safe and tidy state
- Assist in preparing students for departure from school
- Work closely with the Class Teacher and other staff
- Maintain close links with the Senior LSA and other Learning Support Assistants
- Liaise with all colleagues, both on a formal and informal level and work and communicate effectively with others as part of a team to maintain harmonious interpersonal relations.
- Maintain good relationships with parents/carers, outside agencies and the general public through maintaining a high degree of personal and professional integrity. Play a full part in building good relationships with other staff and students and with parents/carers and external bodies, but at all times to communicate effectively and maintain professional boundaries

- Have a basic understanding of autism and treat students with dignity and respect and to be aware of the vulnerability of students at the school
- Promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- Be observant and do everything possible to protect students and others from abuse of a physical, emotional, sexual, neglectful, financial or institutional nature. This includes the need to report any incident of this type that you witness or hear about
- Contribute to good communication by:
 - (i) checking email, notice board, and diaries every time you are on duty to check for information you need to know;
 - (ii) attending meetings as required and;
 - (iii) making sure you inform other people of things that are likely to be useful to them in their jobs

Education / Professional Qualifications / Training

(E) = Essential (D) = Desirable

- NVQ Level 3 Supporting Teaching & Learning (D)
- Maths & English at GCSE, Grade C or above (E)
- Team Teach (D)
- Swimming, rescue test for swimming teachers (D)
- CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety (D)
- Emergency First Aid 1 Day Course (D)
- Clean Driving Licence with 2 years driving experience (D)

Work Experience

- Relevant experience working with students with autism or learning disabilities in an educational setting (E)
- Assisting in the delivery of national curriculum subjects to students with learning disabilities (D)
- Supporting students who exhibit challenging behaviour (E)
- Working in a childcare setting (D)

Technical and Professional Knowledge

- Child care and child development (E)
- National Curriculum requirements (D)
- Approaches to teaching students with autism (D)
- Augmented communication systems (D)

Practical Skills and Abilities

- Ability to maintain accurate records (E)
- Observational and organisational skills (E)
- Good written and oral verbal communications skills (E)

- Able to work in stressful situations (E)
- Good interpersonal skills with ability to react with sensitivity and empathy when appropriate (E)
- Ability to remain alert and respond to unexpected change (E)
- Calm, firm and patient manner (E)

Personal Attributes/Person Specification

- Commitment to the role with ability to attend work reliably and punctually (E)
Self-motivated (E)
- Ability to make decisions, encourage, motivate and advocate for others (E)
- A flexible, positive, energetic, enthusiastic and proactive approach (E)
- Display a tactful and diplomatic approach when dealing with individuals (E)
- Ability to react with sensitivity and empathy when appropriate (E)