



making physics matter



How to...

support your school as a specialist science teaching assistant

Aim

To support the teaching and learning of science by taking a leading role in the school's science provision, supporting the science leader and other teachers.

Introduction

As part of its School Partnerships programme, The Ogden Trust offers support for teaching assistants at Phiz Lab schools to become higher level teaching assistants (HLTA) with a focus on science. But you don't need to have a Phiz Lab to develop your contribution to the classroom.

HLTA can take a proactive leadership role in school science provision and across the curriculum (but our focus in this How to guide is science), supporting teachers and offering additional extracurricular activities such as running science clubs and science ambassador programmes within the school.

What do you have to do?

If you are a Level 3 Teaching Assistant then you will have to enrol on a Level 4 HLTA course at a further education provider, this usually takes one year to complete. The qualification will help you to develop skills in planning lessons and monitoring children's achievement which can then be adapted to support teaching and learning, for example observing and monitoring children's development in working scientifically skills.

You can find out more about becoming a HLTA at **Skills for Schools**.

Being a specialist science TA enables you to:

- support the teaching of science across the school.
- plan science lessons and experiments that are engaging and support the development of children's working scientifically skills.
- monitor children's achievements in science and the development of working
- scientifically skills across different ages and abilities.



The HLTA course allowed me to improve my knowledge of how children learn, and I can now adapt my teaching skills to provide better support. I have been able to improve how I plan and deliver lessons within our Phiz Lab and can now lead whole class sessions. Our partnership schools have visited the Lab for a session on magnets and forces. I have improved how I deliver these sessions and the feedback has been very positive; the teachers have commented on how much the children have enjoyed carrying out the experiments.

For anyone considering a HLTA course, I can highly recommend it. Not only will you gain a valuable qualification, but you will find the work you will be doing much more rewarding for yourself and the children.

Matthew Bullock, Specialist Science Teaching Assistant, Springbank Primary School

