



Trial Day Guide for Learning Support Assistants (LSAs)

As an education recruiter, I want to ensure you're fully prepared for your trial day in a school. Whether you're new to the role or have experience as a Learning Support Assistant (LSA), the trial day is your opportunity to showcase your skills, build connections, and leave a lasting impression. Here's how to make the most of it and ensure success.

Be Proactive

From the moment you walk through the doors, schools will be looking at your initiative and enthusiasm. Don't wait to be told what to do—show that you can think on your feet. Whether it's helping to set up for a lesson or jumping in to support a student without hesitation, being proactive is key. Schools want LSAs who are engaged, hands-on, and ready to contribute without needing constant direction.

If you're unsure of something, ask questions, but also make sure you observe and act when needed. Whether it's supporting a student who is struggling or assisting the teacher with classroom management, your role is to make things smoother for both the students and staff.

Know Who You Are Meeting and Prepare in Advance

Preparation starts long before you arrive at the school. Spend time reading the school's website and get familiar with its values, mission, and curriculum. This will give you insight into what the school prioritises and how you can align yourself with their ethos. Know who you're meeting, including the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) or class teachers, and understand what they might be looking for in an LSA.

Research the type of students you will be supporting. If the school focuses heavily on SEN (Special Educational Needs), familiarise yourself with common strategies for supporting students with autism, ADHD, or other learning difficulties. This knowledge will help you feel more confident during the day and show the school that you are well-prepared and genuinely invested in the role.

Introduce Yourself and Build Rapport

Take every opportunity to introduce yourself to the staff and students. Building relationships is a fundamental part of being an LSA, and the trial day is no different. Greet everyone warmly, and when appropriate, explain your role and how you plan to support them.

With students, building rapport is even more crucial. Engage them with enthusiasm, ask questions about their work, and be patient if they need extra help. Establishing trust and showing empathy are key qualities in an LSA. Even if you're only in the classroom for a day, make it clear to the students that you're there to help and that you care about their success.



Sell Yourself

While your trial day is primarily about supporting students, it's also your chance to highlight what makes you a standout candidate. Be confident in showcasing your skills, whether it's your knowledge of different learning strategies, experience in working with specific needs, or your ability to manage challenging behaviour. Don't be afraid to mention any relevant training you've completed or specific techniques that have worked well for you in the past.

However, remember to remain humble and adaptable. Schools appreciate LSAs who are willing to learn and adjust to their way of working.

Stay Energetic and Positive

Energy and a positive attitude go a long way, especially in a school environment. No matter how challenging a situation may be, remain calm, optimistic, and solution-focused. This doesn't mean you have to be bouncing off the walls, but a smile and a can-do attitude can make all the difference.

If you're given feedback throughout the day, take it on board. Schools appreciate LSAs who are open to growth and improvement, and your ability to respond well to feedback will reflect your professionalism.

Be Reflective

At the end of the day, take some time to reflect on how it went. Did you make a connection with the students? Were there moments you could have handled better? Use this reflection to improve for future opportunities, whether at this school or others.

Final Thoughts

A trial day is more than just a test of your ability to support students; it's an opportunity to demonstrate that you're the perfect fit for the school. Be proactive, prepared, and positive throughout the day. Make an effort to build rapport with both staff and students, and don't be afraid to showcase your strengths. Good luck!