

Looking Back

Name: Lorna Burton
Qualification(s): Teaching Assistant - Level 2 and Level 3
Placement: In an SEN environment
Date: December 2016

I have always had a caring and nurturing nature which seemed qualities attributed to teaching assistants. This seemed like a job I felt I could be good at and make a difference. From a young age I can remember wanting to be a teacher but as I grew older I realized I didn't want to be in charge of a class, I wanted to make a difference to those small few that often get left behind.

I really enjoyed the Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeship course. My Entrust Coach was absolutely fantastic and guided me through assignment by assignment. We were given all the information we needed to complete the assignments and were always able to contact our trainer if we had any issues. I think everybody on the course at some point or another felt like it was a struggle. It can be hard to juggle full time employment and complete all your assignments but Entrust were always supportive and helped us to get through and continue. The observations in school helped us to see the criteria we were meeting and helped us develop.

During my Level 2 course I won the apprentice of the year award. This was a massive honor for me as Entrust had noticed how hard working I was and how much I cared about my job and the passion I had for helping the children I worked with. This also gave me the edge when it came to interviews for another post in a school.

I have since moved on from my first school where I completed my apprenticeship. I am now working as a teaching assistant in a high school working with SEN pupils but also as a cover supervisor. I have also taken on extra roles in school where I provide social and emotional support to vulnerable children in school during form time. I hope to continue to develop my role in school and provide support where it is needed for the children.

Completing the apprenticeship route has given me the best opportunity in my career, I was able to learn first hand on the job rather than sitting in a classroom being taught by a lecturer. I got to see for myself and work with children on the SEN register and discover the traits of Autism and ADHD without reading from a textbook. By learning on the job it gave me an edge over other interviewees as I had all my training and experience at once.



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