



Learning Assistance Teacher

Specialist Teachers who provide special education services are known as Learning Assistance Teachers. Learning Assistance Teacher will have a variety of students on their caseload. These students may have learning disabilities, challenges with literacy or numeracy skills development, developmental disabilities (example: autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy...etc.), English language learning needs.

The roles and responsibilities of Learning Assistance Teacher (LAT) are diverse and may change throughout the year or year-to-year based on the student population at a given school. Their support may be either direct or indirect.

Direct support may include:

- providing direct instruction in skills and concepts to individuals or small groups (in class and beyond the classroom)
- providing whole group instruction using differentiated instruction while the class teacher works with small groups or individuals
- providing intense and explicit short term instruction for individuals/groups
- supporting positive behaviour support plans
- offering weekly tutorials focusing on specific skills (more in Secondary Schools)
- assessing and observing students to gather data within the classroom and other locations
- modeling specific teaching strategies for the classroom teacher or LA
- planning/co-teaching with teachers /Learning Assistants (LAs)
- supporting the classroom teacher to adapt and modify instruction
- communicating with parents in order to ensure the consistency of home-school approaches

Indirect support may include:

- acting as a Case Manager to support the classroom teacher in the development and implementation of the IEP
- working with the administrator to facilitate team/transition meetings
- supporting school-wide initiatives (e.g. peer tutoring)
- co-planning and collaborating with classroom teachers to ensure designated students meet their IPP goals and objectives and successfully participate in the community of the classroom
- providing resources and articles to support best practices
- consulting with district learning support staff and community agencies (e.g. Children's Services Resource Team, OT, Speech, Mental Health, etc.) to provide support to staff and students
- communicating with the school, the home and outside agencies to coordinate support, organize meetings, and facilitate transitions

The primary responsibility of the Learning Assistance Teachers is to support the students with exceptionalities that are on his/her case load. Efforts are directed according to determination of individual student need. Depending on case load, the Learning Assistance Teacher may also be able to support the learning of other students in the school he/she is based out of.