

TA TALK

Issue 13, November 2016



Leaders in
Professional
Learning
For
Teacher Aides



Stella Liliendal and Mandy Bell, ATA Directors

Australian Teacher Aide Directors Message

We are pretty chuffed that, at ATA, we have reached our first major milestone! In November last year we launched ATA with the vision of providing teacher aides with a national association that would become the leader in professional learning for teacher aides in Australia.

Our achievements are thanks to you, for believing and sharing in that vision. Our membership has grown across Australia, from remote rural schools to large city schools.

To mark this milestone, and by popular request, you will shortly be able to purchase your very own ATA polo shirt. They look great and might solve a few work wear dilemmas for 2017. See page 2 for more details.

We are currently planning our webinar schedule for 2017, and will soon let you know what's coming up. Make sure you catch our last open webinar for this year titled *Acknowledging challenges, obstacles and achievements as you reframe for 2017* with our special guest presenter, Beth Berghan. For more details, go to page 5.

We love that we can share the expertise of so many wonderful presenters in the open webinars, and we always look forward to interacting with you in our monthly members' webinars. Next year, we plan to bring you more exciting topics that we think you will love!

Lastly, have you completed the member's survey yet? If not, check your inbox. Don't miss the chance to win one of three free memberships.

Thank you all for being part of the ATA journey, so far.

Warm regards

Stella Liliendal & Mandy Bell

ATA Monogrammed Polo Shirts Available Soon



After many requests from members, we are making monogrammed polo shirts available for purchase in two styles and in a variety of colours.

To ensure there are no “add-ons” and you get the best possible price, ATA has arranged for orders to be made directly with the supplier, Coast Imagewear.

Our supplier, Coast Imagewear, is currently working on an order page especially for you, our ATA members. We will let you know as soon as the site is live.

What colour will you be seen in next year?

***** DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP WITH ATA YET? *****

DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL FOR SCHOOLS

OFFER ENDS 30TH NOVEMBER

12 Months Membership, Unlimited Staff, Just \$335!

Orders must be received, and payment made, by 30 November 2016 to qualify

More details available on the [ATA Website](#) or simply [CONTACT US](#)



NEW – FACILITATOR'S GUIDE AND WORKBOOKS

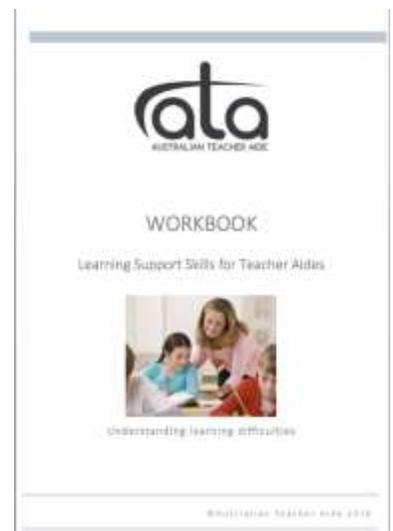
We are currently updating all of our workbooks in the Support Skills for Teacher Aides series, and adding a Facilitator's Guide.

The new Facilitator's Guide is designed to assist school coordinators to facilitate PD sessions with their teacher aide team, and includes:

- **A Guide to using the ATA Professional Development Resources** that outlines the online programs and workbooks
- **Guidelines to Scheduling a Facilitated PD Session** that provides suggested options for full day, half day and short sessions
- **A Planning Checklist** to help ensure that everything is ready for the session
- **Icebreaker Activities** to create a positive start to any session
- **A KWL Chart** for use to help participants draw on their prior knowledge and focus on the learning process
- **A Questionnaire** to gain feedback on the session and to help plan for future professional development.

The Workbooks have been updated to provide a more complete learning experience for participants, and importantly provide a means of recognising the learning with their school. They now include:

- **A Workbook Guide** that describes the learning intentions of the program and the steps in the learning process.
- **Activities** that reinforce understanding of the content.
- **Reflections** that encourage participants to reflect on what they have learned, connect their learning to what they already know and can do, and identify what they have yet to learn, and how to achieve it.
- **A Professional Learning Record** to document the participants' knowledge and understanding; for use towards:
 - required professional development hours
 - developing performance plans
 - recognition of knowledge and skills towards a qualification.
- **The Australian Standards for Paraprofessional Educators in Schools** that shows the alignment with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. The Standards have been developed by Australian Teacher Aide.
- **A Certificate of Completion** to provide participants with a record of their learning, to upload or file in their professional development portfolio.



SUMMING UP – WHAT DID YOU LEARN AND WHERE TO NEXT?

In our November Members' Webinar, we summed up our behaviour series, and talked about what our members would like in 2017. We looked at the **Balance Model**, which describes 10 essential skills for classroom management that teacher aides can use, to manage behaviour and develop positive relationships with students.

This model provides teacher aides with strategies to develop the confidence to manage behaviour in a positive and consistent manner. When used consistently, students in all year levels will learn what to expect and greater trust and respect will be gained in the process.

The advantages of a planned approach to behaviour management is that the teacher aide will have the skills to:

- Draw on strategies rather than react to situations as they occur
- Use language that focuses on positive behaviour and learning, rather than telling students what not to do.



Here's a recap:

The Language of Expectation is used to talk with students about their expected behaviour and learning. By consistently setting clear expectations you are building positive relationships, creating a sense of fairness, and developing students' trust.

The Language of Acknowledgment is used to recognise appropriate and productive behaviours, and promotes self-motivation and resilience. This is supported by [Carol Dweck](#)'s research on Growth Mindset. Carol found that children who were encouraged for their efforts, and believed that they could improve, were more willing to try more challenging tasks next time.

The Language of Correction is used to redirect students back on task in the least intrusive manner, by using correction strategies that progress from the least to the most intrusive. The exception is when behaviour is dangerous, violent, or highly disrespectful, which must be acted upon immediately.

Effective behaviour management requires a whole school approach. You must be familiar with your school's behaviour plan, and discuss any strategies with the classroom teachers you are supporting.

2017 MEMBER WEBINARS

Member webinars will begin again in February next year. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Members receive a reminder email each month, prior to the webinar, including registration details.

DON'T MISS THE LAST OPEN WEBINAR FOR THE YEAR ...

WHEN? Tuesday 13 December @ 4:15PM

WHAT? *Acknowledging challenges, obstacles and achievements as you reframe for 2017*

Every job has its highs and lows, its challenges and its obstacles. The way you respond to these can weave magic into your life and your work.

We all have personal challenges at work - those things that test us and push us and that undermine our confidence.

We all face obstacles as well - those things that stand in the way of us being the best that we can be, of doing our best work and providing just the right support that a student needs.

Join our webinar with experienced Coach and Trainer, Beth Berghan.

Beth will identify and acknowledge some of your challenges as a TA along with some of the obstacles that working in the education sector brings, provide simple strategies to enable you to minimise their impact and to reframe your thinking - right on time for your 2017 planning.

Just as importantly, Beth will show you how to acknowledge, own and celebrate your 2016 achievements.

Look out 2017 - here we come!



WHAT'S TRENDING ON FACEBOOK? November 2016 fans: 4,053

Top Post: *Wow! This is taking school reform to a whole new level!! Your thoughts?*

3,477 Views 107 Reactions, Comments and Shares



Whilst this is not an original post by ATA, it did create a reasonable level of interest. Imagine, a school without subjects! Finland is certainly creating a stir with this proposed approach in the senior school. On the surface it seems a little radical, but when you read on it makes a whole lot of sense. We suspect educators at the coalface will be under considerable pressure, initially, as they prepare to facilitate this new style of learning. Interesting times! Will we see this happen in other countries?

Thank you for continuing to share the [ATA Facebook page](#) 😊

CURRENT EDUCATION TOPICS FOR YOU

With the year drawing to a close, we decided to bring you some fun activities that you can use with students.

END OF YEAR PROJECTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Here are [6 Engaging End of Year Projects](#), from Edutopia, to share with your teachers that will help keep high school students (who have not yet left) engaged until the end of term.



END OF YEAR CLASSROOM PARTY IDEAS

There's still time to plan a [classroom party](#) to celebrate the end of the year. Use these creative ideas or adapt the themes to suit your class.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES FOR KIDS

Cooking with kids is always lots of fun, especially for special holidays and celebrations. Here are some easy [Christmas recipes from Kidspot](#) that you can make in the classroom or at home. Do you have a favourite recipe? Why not share it in MyPLC.

SHARE YOUR STORIES FROM AROUND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- **Make a difference:** Acknowledge someone who is making a difference in the lives of students
- **What's new?** Are you using a new App, literacy program, STEM activity?
- **What have you been learning?** Have you attended an awesome workshop? Share it with your paraprofessional colleagues here

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