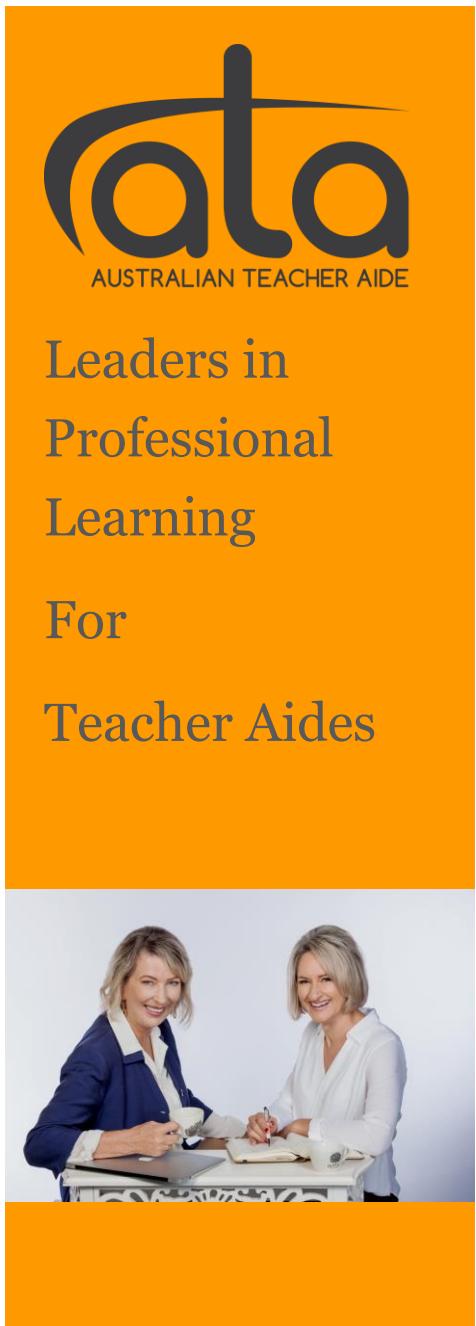


# TA TALK

Issue 16, February 2017



## Australian Teacher Aide Directors Message

First Term is always a busy one, with new students, changes in staffing and new routines to learn. We hope you have all settled in with your students and teachers, and that you are enjoying being back at school.

February has been another busy month at ATA, with two member webinars already uploaded into our webinar library, and a very exciting community webinar coming up on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, with Frances Brennan, titled 'How to teach children and adolescents to read and spell with confidence'. You can read more about this webinar on the next page. Don't forget to [register](#). There are only a few spots left.

Have you had a chance to read our latest blog on how TAs, who lead structured literacy and numeracy interventions, can make a significant difference to student results? You will find the blog [here](#).

We also wanted to say a warm welcome to our new TA members, schools and training organisations.

We are getting excited about some of the new features that we will be launching in March. Those of you who participated in the February member webinars got a sneak peek, and we will be announcing more soon, so watch this space!

Warm regards

*Stella Liliendal & Mandy Bell*

Stella Liliendal and Mandy Bell, ATA Directors

## OUR NEXT WEBINAR EVENT - 28 FEBRUARY

### How to teach children and adolescents to read and spell with confidence

Don't miss our first community webinar for the year, [\*How to teach children and adolescents to read and spell with confidence\*](#), presented by Frances Brennan, Principal Speech Pathologist and owner of The Speech Tree.

Francis will explain how to use different phonic approaches, and identify the many components needed for skilled reading and writing. Francis uses her wealth of experience in working with children and adolescents to break down the steps in literacy acquisition, and she will share with you some practical ways to set achievable goals in an effective literacy intervention program.

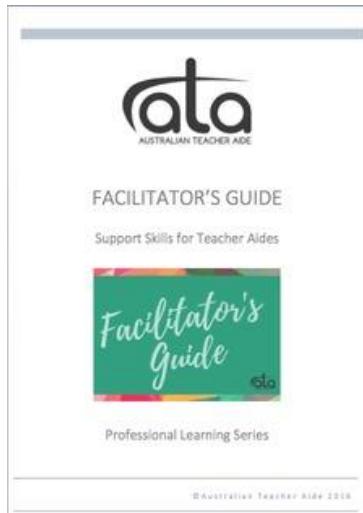


## WHAT'S NEW IN THE MEMBERS' PORTAL

### TA COORDINATOR WEBINAR:

### Facilitating PD using the ATA professional learning resources

On 21 February, Stella ran a short webinar session for our TA coordinators in schools on facilitating PD using the ATA professional learning resources. The Facilitator's Guide which goes with the series, Support Skills for Teacher Aides, is a useful resource for planning, scheduling and implementing a PD session.



As the time required to deliver professional development to TAs in schools is limited, Stella showed coordinators how they could use the Facilitator's Guide to make preparation for TA team PD a little easier. Some of the printable resources that facilitators may find useful, include:

- A Planning and Preparation Checklist
- A Guide to Scheduling PD
- Ice Breaker Activities
- A KWL Chart
- A Feedback Questionnaire

## MEMBER WEBINAR:

# A ‘How to’ Guide to using ATA member resources for your continuing professional development (CPD)

Our first member webinar of the year got off to a lively start. Many of our regulars attended, as well as quite a few new ATA members.

Participants enjoyed the opportunity to become more confident with webinar technology and developed their digital skills by using the polling tool and asking questions using the chat box.

Throughout the webinar, we polled members to learn their views on a variety of professional development topics. You can read the results in the recording, which is now in our webinar library.



As well as a tour of our professional learning resources, we shared the feedback from some of our member schools on some of their challenges and how they are working collaboratively to address these.

We also told you about some exciting new member benefits, that we will be introducing over the coming months, which will make it much easier to record and track your professional development.

We are pretty excited about the change to [membership pricing for schools](#), made at the start of this year which, for

many, will mean a significant saving along with the option to include all support staff. This change was made in response to feedback that many TAs, working as contract and casual staff, were missing out on the benefits of ATA membership. Under the previous pricing model, schools paid on a ‘per member’ basis and, therefore, due to budgetary restrictions, often nominated only permanent and full time staff members in their school membership plan.

Under our new pricing model, the school membership plan is determined by school size and membership places are now unlimited. In recognition of our existing member schools, we are offering to update membership to include all TA staff, regardless of whether renewal is due next week or at the end of the year. All schools need to do is send us the names and email addresses of any additional staff to your plan and we will provide member registration and log in instructions, accordingly.

## WHAT'S TRENDING ON FACEBOOK?

February 2017 Fans: 5,364

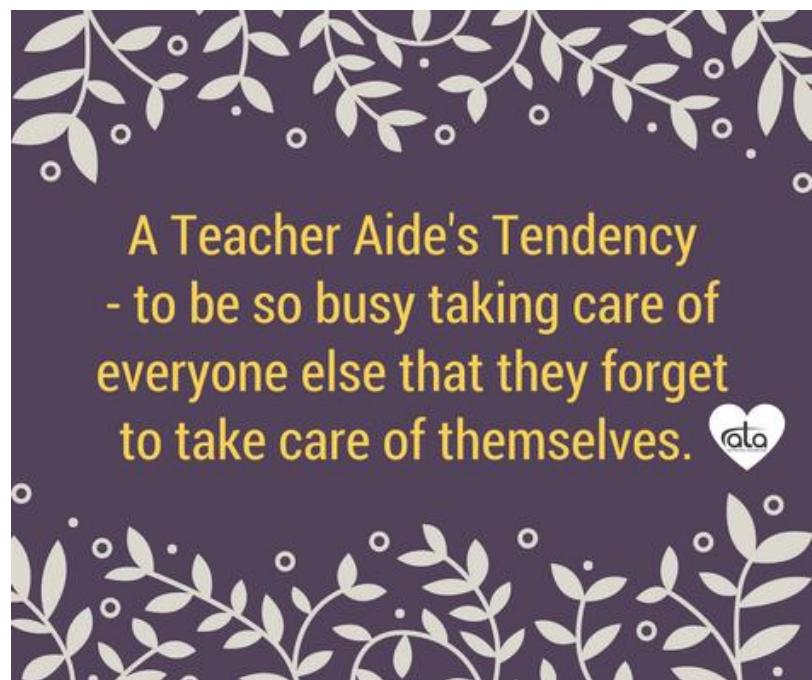
### Top Post:

A Teacher Aide's Tendency: to be so busy taking care of everyone else that they forget to take care of themselves.

33,713 Views

1,815 Reactions, Comments and Shares

We had many people sharing this very recent post and a lot of heartfelt comments. We know our TA community is a much loved and much appreciated group of paraprofessionals and this was great validation of the contribution they make each and every day.



### Closely followed by:

If you work in a special education classroom, PRESS ON! Your work does not go unnoticed ...

33,481 Views

 Australian Teacher Aide  
Published by Mandy Bell (Y) · 8 February at 16:05 · 0

If you work in a special education classroom, PRESS ON! Your work does not go unnoticed ...



To the Teacher's Aide in My Son's Special Education Classroom: I See What You Are Doing

As the parent of a child with special needs, I cannot help but be an overemotional ball of overprotectiveness most of the time. I have decided that this is not a...  
[LOVEINA DIFFERENTLANGUAGE.COM](http://LOVEINA DIFFERENTLANGUAGE.COM)

1,677 Reactions, Comments and Shares

This is an emotive and passionately written article, by Nichole, author of the blog, Love in a Different Language: A Journey of Faith and Autism. Nichole does not profess to be an expert on Autism; she simply shares her insights and experiences as she travels the unchartered path of raising a child with ASD. In this very personal blog post, in great detail, Nichole pays homage to her son's Special Education Teacher. It is a beautiful piece and if you missed it, go back and find it. But first find the Kleenex. We posted the link on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

Thank you for continuing to share the [ATA Facebook page](#) with others. ☺

## CURRENT EDUCATION TOPICS FOR YOU

The focus this month is on strategies for the start of the school year. Remember that all resource links are uploaded into the TA Toolbox, so you don't have to search through newsletters to find something you need from past issues.

The following links are from the [Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership \(AITSL\) website](#).

### ESTABLISHING ROUTINES

This [video by AITSL](#) shows how, at the start of the year, this year 4 teacher in a remote school in WA works with other teachers to establish planned and predictable routines that are implemented in teaching programs throughout the school.



### INCLUSION & INDUCTION PROCESSES

A 6/7 teacher in Adelaide talks about how she collaborates with teachers and school learning support officers (SLSOs) to ensure that students with physical and intellectual disabilities can fully [participate in learning, and also discusses induction processes](#).

### ESTABLISHING POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

At the start of the year, a teacher of middle school students in a Queensland school focuses on [setting expectations](#), using relevant contexts, by running workshops where students create rap music based on their school-wide behaviour plan.

## 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

## SEND US YOUR NEWS STORIES: CONTACT US

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