

TA TALK

Issue 4, February 2016



Leaders in
Professional
Learning
For
Teacher Aides



Stella Liliendal and Mandy Bell, ATA Directors

Australian Teacher Aide Directors Message

TERM 1 - UP AND RUNNING

Can you believe that there's fewer than five weeks left of the first school term? The end of term varies between States by several weeks. Queensland and Victoria begin their term break on Thursday 24 March, immediately before Easter, whereas ACT, New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia all begin their break on the 8 April. For those schools it means four days of public holidays over Easter, before going on end of term holidays a week later. Is that disruptive? I'm sure that it feels like you have just returned, and along with your students, just getting settled into a routine.



support team.

Have you used any of the mnemonics in our January issue? When you are working with new teachers and students it's a great way to remember their names.

We wish you a great Term One.

Warm regards

Stella Liliendal & Mandy Bell

For Australian Teacher Aide, our year started with pupil free day visits to schools. We visited one group of enthusiastic teacher aides, who hold regular afternoon teas and lunchtime meetings, to catch up with each other. The teacher responsible for this initiative has a strong belief in the benefits of capacity building the education

WEBINAR: MAKE EVERY DAY A GOOD DAY – LEARN HOW TO HELP CHILDREN SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS



Did you miss our recent ATA webinar: *Make every day a good day: Learn how to help children solve their own problems*, presented by Kathryn Tonges?

Kathryn is a National Trainer with the Effectiveness Training Institute of Australia, and a highly experienced parent and personal empowerment coach. She is passionate about helping parents and educators improve their communication skills.

This interactive webinar was attended by teacher aides and educators from all over Australia. Here is a summary of the four key steps that Kathryn talked about, that lead to helping children solve their own problems.

Identifying Needs

All behaviour is driven by a need. It is how we interpret those needs that help us to identify children's problems. Kathryn talks about the difference between making a judgement and identifying the behaviour you can see.

Avoiding Roadblocks

The way we respond to children's problems can help unlock clues to why a child says or does something. We can also block that process by our responses. Kathryn explains the road blocks to avoid, so we can open up communication, rather than shutting it down.

Listening Actively

The purpose of active listening is to explore children's feelings, and the facts behind the feelings. Kathryn engages her audience in a role play to demonstrate how we can assist children find their own solutions to their problems.

Facilitating Problem Solving

Lastly, Kathryn outlines how to encourage children to develop the ability to solve their own problems by learning a growth mindset. When the participants were invited to ask questions and make comments, we were thrilled to learn that at one school, they teach growth mindset for one hour per week.

You can find more information about Kathryn's Parent Effectiveness Training on her website [The Parent Within](#).

We will be uploading the recording of this webinar to the members' area soon.

NEW RESOURCES



Literacy Support Skills for Teacher Aides

Keep an eye out for the next Vocabulary Support Skills video. This program shows you how to reinforce reading vocabulary, using Marzano's Steps 4-6. It includes a workbook and a certificate of completion. We will let you know by email when this new resource is uploaded to the members' area.

WHAT'S TRENDING ON FACEBOOK?

FEBRUARY 2016

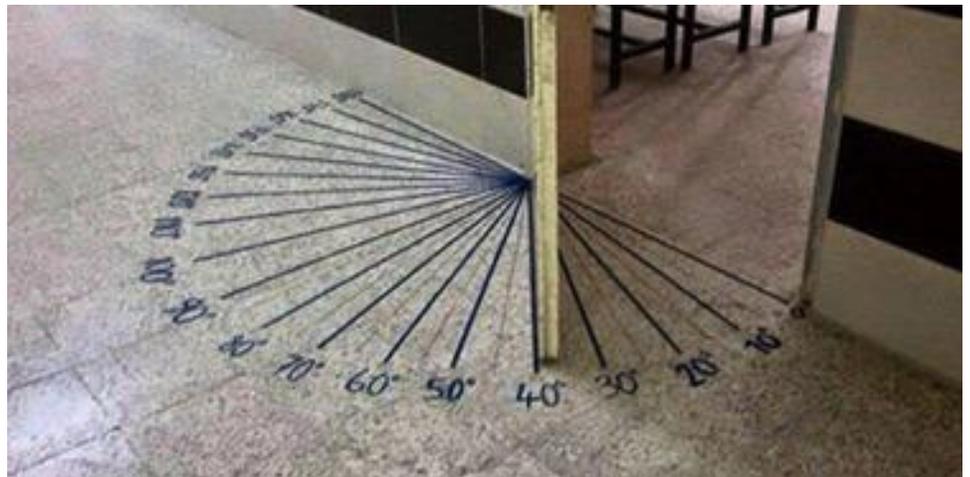
Page Likes: 1959

TARGET: 2000 likes by the end of February. Can we do it??

Top Post

There was no doubt that the most popular post by far, this month, was this photo showing how to use a door as a tool to learn about angles. Brilliant!

This post has been seen by over 12,485 people and shared 110 times!



98 people shared our post about Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World & Wet'n'Wild promotion of free admission for various professions during the month of February. We hope some of you were able to take advantage of this fabulous bonus offer - 25th to 28th February, for education staff.

<https://themeparks.com.au/box-office/community-month/select-tickets.aspx>

If you missed any of these posts, you can find them on our [ATA FB page](#).

Please keep liking and sharing our page 😊

TIPS AND IDEAS

Easter

Easter can fall anywhere between late March and April. This year Easter is from Friday 25 to Monday 28 March. Maybe your school is already planning an Easter parade or doing classroom crafts. As not everyone celebrates Easter, we have included a variety of activities.

Egg Shell Mosaics

How to make eggshell pendants: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXReU1EAio4>

How to make eggshell pictures: <http://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activities/make-an-eggshell-mosaic>

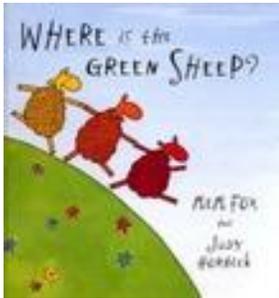
Growing Cress Heads:

Why not grow cress in egg shells and turn them into Easter characters such as bunnies and chickens. Children can eat the results while learning about science.

<http://www.planet-science.com/categories/under-11s/our-world/2011/07/grow-a-cress-head!.aspx>

Wooly Green Sheep

Where is the Green Sheep, by well-known children's author Mem Fox and illustrated by Judith Horacek is a much loved children's book. Why not make your own green, blue, or pink sheep!



We found this great idea on the [Inadvertent Farmer](#) that we think younger students will love making!

To Make the Sheep You Will Need: Wooden Clothes Pegs; coloured wool, cardboard (you can use egg cartons or recycled card) and bits and pieces for decoration

1. Paint the wooden pegs any colour you like. They will become the sheep's legs.
2. Next cut out a kidney shaped piece of cardboard, around 10 cm in size, for the sheep's body and paint one end for the head
3. When the paint is dry, place the sheep's legs on the body, making sure they can stand up.
4. Begin wrapping your choice of wool around the sheep's body
5. Glue ears on the head, using coloured cardboard

Decorate your sheep to suit the book theme. You are only limited by your imagination.

Variation

Children love using their iPad or devices to make movies. Why not encourage children to use the sheep to create their own "Green Sheep" story. They can narrate or write the story to go with it!

Below are some of the stories about teacher aides and education that caught our attention. Click on the links to learn more.

VICTORIA

[School Mate](#) is an exciting new App for Victorian parents that will provide an insight into what their child is learning and suggest ways to help their child.



NEW SOUTH WALES

At Tabulam Public School, 82% of students are Indigenous. The school believes that Aboriginal studies should be taught to all students, and with the support of the Wahlabul people of the Bundjalung nation, the school is helping keep alive, the ancient tradition of [turtle diving, or binging](#).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Rostrata Primary School has made the headlines on Sunrise, as their science teacher, [Richard Johnson](#), is named in the top 10 in the world's most prestigious education award. The nomination was announced by world renowned physicist and cosmologist, Stephen Hawking.

QUEENSLAND

This year, all students in Queensland State schools will learn [robotics and coding](#). With 75% of all future jobs being STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related, this will help students prepare for future employment.

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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