

Support staff roles are continually expanding, bringing a variety of expertise and experience that helps schools raise standards. As teaching assistants now play such an important role they are attracting an increasing amount of regulation. This is why STAR believes it is imperative that their skills are harnessed in an appropriate qualification and they are given the support that is needed and deserved.

Sam Rhodes, from Sheriff Hutton Primary School in York, was new to the role of teaching assistant when she started her NVQ. She used the qualification to develop her skills and knowledge, working on both her personal and professional development.

Commenting on her progression Sam said:

*'The NVQ has given me confidence and enhanced my role within the setting. I thank all my work colleagues who took the time to witness and support me throughout the process.'*

Sam is now a fully qualified teaching assistant and has evidence that she is capable of doing her job.

*'The NVQ has made me realise my own competence and just how much I actually know. It has certainly given me a confidence boost as I feel that I have proved myself.'*

For Laura Swainston, a teaching assistant from Brompton-on-Swale C of E Primary School, the Teaching Assistant NVQ was a vital stepping stone



on her career path. Originally wanting to become a primary school teacher Laura started a teaching degree but unfortunately due to ill health had to leave university.

In January 2008 Laura started her Teaching Assistant NVQ with the full support of her school, who saw great potential in her and encouraged her to progress.

Ultimately, doing this NVQ developed Laura's skills and helped her realise that she still wanted to be a teacher. The realisation that she should follow her aspirations prompted her to enrol at university and go on to complete her degree.

*'This NVQ was enjoyable and very rewarding. I was supported 100% by my STAR assessor Naomi Wardman and she deserves a massive thank you!'*

The Supporting Teaching and Learning NVQ replaced the Teaching Assistant NVQ in March 2008.

For more information please call STAR using the number below.

