

Technical Appendix

Definition

Teaching assistants (also known as TAs or classroom support assistants) are adults who support teachers in the classroom. Teaching assistants' duties can vary widely from school to school, ranging from providing administrative and classroom support to providing targeted academic support to individual pupils or small groups.

Search terms: support staff; adult support staff; teaching assistants; associate staff; classroom assistants; auxiliary teachers; teachers' aide; education paraprofessional

Evidence Rating

A number of systematic reviews of the impact of support staff in schools have been conducted. However, there are no meta-analyses specifically looking at the impact of TAs on learning. Overall the evidence is limited.

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Summary of effects

Single Studies	Effect size	FSM effect size
Blatchford, P., Bassett, P., Brown, P., Koutsoubou, M., Martin, C., Russell, A. and Webster, R., with Rubie-Davies, C. (2009)	0.00	-
Blatchford, P., Bassett, P., Brown, P., Martin, C., Russell, A., & Webster, R. (2011)	-0.01	-
Blatchford, P., Russell, A., Bassett, P., Brown, P., & Martin, C. (2007)	0.00	-
Brown, K. J., Morris, D., & Fields, M. (2005)	1.18	-
Ehri, L. C., Dreyer, L. G., Flugman, B., & Gross, A.. (2007)	0.74	-
Gerber, S.B., Finn, J.D., Achilles, C.M. and Boyd-Zacharias, J. (2001)	0.00	- (compared with regular classes)
	-0.15	- (compared with small classes)
Gray, C., McCloy, S., Dunbar, C., Dunn, J., Mitchell, D., & Ferguson, J. (2007)	0.00	-
Hatcher, P. J., Goetz, K., Snowling, M. J., Hulme, C., Gibbs, S., & Smith, G. (2006)	0.15	-
Mecrow, C., Beckwith, J., & Klee, T. (2010)	0.12	-
Mercer, C. D., Campbell, K. U., Miller, M. D., Mercer, K. D., & Lane, H. B. (2000)	1.5	-
Moore, W. and Hammond, L. (2011)	0.79	-
Morris, D. (2006)	0.76	-
Muijs, D. & Reynolds, D. (2003)	0.00	-
Savage, R., Carless, S., & Stuart, M. (2003)	0.37	-
Vadasy, P. F., Sanders, E. A., & Tudor, S. (2007)	0.22	-
Indicative Effect Size	0.08	

The right hand column provides detail on the specific outcome measures or, if in brackets, details of the intervention or control group.