The role of education assistant appeals to those who have a passion for helping children in the kindergarten, pre-primary, primary and secondary levels.

Amongst many other tasks they are responsible for assisting the teachers by making teaching aids and displays and, for those with a flair for arts and crafts, this aspect of the work can be particularly rewarding. In addition to this, education assistants have responsibilities in the classroom that support and enhance the learning and teaching environment.

Many students who undertake this training have previously worked as volunteer education assistants and have enjoyed the challenges of the role sufficiently to make it their career of choice.

Education assistants usually work within school hours and, for many who have young children themselves, it offers a career that suits their particular lifestyle and commitments.
The scope of work as an education assistant

Education assistants perform a variety of tasks that may include:

- Assisting the teacher in the delivery of planned educational programs, including the operation of computers
- Implementing, under teacher direction, individual student or small group programs
- Listening to reading as directed by the teacher
- Copying, collating, distributing and collection of lesson material.
- Assisting with the preparation and maintenance of the learning environment by maintaining equipment, materials, resources, displays and demonstrations
- Assisting the teacher with clean and safe storage of teaching materials and equipment after classes and activities.
- Assisting with clerical duties associated with normal classroom activities eg pupil records, collections etc.
- Assisting teachers with the general care and well being of students, including attending to students with minor illnesses or students in need of minor first aid.
- Assisting the teacher with care of children on school excursions, sports days and other out-of-classroom activities.
- Assisting the teacher in the preparation and distribution of food for students and assisting students with food preparation and eating.

Personal attributes that will enhance your chances of success in this career include:

- a professional attitude
- effective organisational skills
- ability to work independently or as part of a team
- able to accept direction and supervision
- able to use initiative
- a genuine desire to work with children

What education qualifications offer you

The Certificate III in Teacher Assistant qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to assist the teaching staff in schools, and provide care and supervision for children from kindergarten to Year 10. You will learn how to implement planned education programs, assist students in their learning and development, contribute to the safety and health of students, and support students with additional needs. You will also learn how to work with children and young people at risk of harm, work effectively with culturally diverse students, families and co-workers, and gain an introductory knowledge into working with children with special needs.

The Certificate IV in Teacher Assistant (Special Needs) has been developed to provide students with competencies with a special needs focus to enable them to work in a variety of settings within the school environment.

The course enables students to develop a range of knowledge and skills including:

- Contribute to the organisation and management of the classroom
- Work professionally
- Assist in the management of referred student behaviour
- Provide support
- Respond to challenging behaviour

This builds on knowledge and skills acquired during Certificate III Teacher Assistant course and looks at the requirements of those students with special needs.

Employment opportunities

Successful completion of this qualification provides you with the opportunity to become an education assistant working with students in mainstream classrooms and students with additional needs.

Entry requirements

**Certificate III in Teacher Assistant**

- Communication skills
- Maths skills

A working with children check and Department of Education and Training criminal record check is required prior to work placement and employment in schools.

**Certificate IV in Teacher Assistant (Special Needs)**

Successful completion in a qualification listed below:

Certificate III in Teacher Assistant

or A relevant superseded qualification that equates to the one above.

For more information of TAFEWA entrance requirements please visit www.tafe.wa.edu.au

Further information

Contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or (08) 9780 7070

Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au

Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au