

Autism Support Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship

Develop specialist expertise in autism support



"This is an essential training offer given the increased rates of autism diagnosis in our schools. We're often told that staff lack confidence to support neurodivergent learners in the classroom. This apprenticeship meets that need."

Learn. Share. Grow.



Dr Nicola Crossley
Liberty Academy Trust
CEO

Introduction

The Autism Support Practitioner Apprenticeship is a specialist development programme for teaching assistants and support staff who want to strengthen their expertise in supporting autistic pupils.

Delivered by Best Practice Network in partnership with Liberty Academy Trust, an award winning provider of autism education, the programme combines high-quality apprenticeship delivery with specialist knowledge of autism, inclusion and classroom practice.

Built on the Level 5 Specialist Teaching Assistant standard, the programme supports staff to understand and respond effectively to the needs of autistic pupils, remove barriers to learning and enable meaningful participation and inclusion.

Who should apply?

This apprenticeship is suitable for school staff who want to develop specialist expertise in autism support, particularly those working with autistic pupils or pupils who experience differences in communication, sensory processing, social interaction or engagement.

Example roles include:

- Teaching Assistants
- SEND Teaching Assistants
- Learning Support Assistants
- Higher Level Teaching Assistants
- Pastoral and Inclusion Staff
- Support staff looking to progress into a more specialist role

Programme content

- ✓ **Module 1:** Wellbeing and resilience & study
- ✓ **Module 2:** Reflective practice & professional development
- ✓ **Module 3:** Legal requirements & guidance
- ✓ **Module 4:** Curriculum
- ✓ **Module 5:** The learning environment
- ✓ **Module 6:** Child development & how children learn
- ✓ **Module 7:** Theories of learning
- ✓ **Module 8:** Pedagogy
- ✓ **Module 9:** Supporting individual needs
- ✓ **Module 10:** Learning resources & technology
- ✓ **Module 11:** Planning
- ✓ **Module 12:** Assessment
- ✓ **Module 13:** Advocating for learner needs
- ✓ **Module 14:** Effective teamworking & partnership working

Specialist autism learning is embedded throughout the programme, supported by expert input from Liberty Academy Trust.

Programme structure



"I am very grateful to my Course Tutor for their advice and support throughout the course."

- Apprenticeship Graduate

Autism Support Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship

Benefits

- ✓ Develop specialist expertise in autism support
- ✓ Learn from both apprenticeship specialists and autism education experts
- ✓ Benefit from specialist input from Liberty Academy Trust
- ✓ Understand autism, sensory processing, communication differences and behaviour as communication
- ✓ Apply practical, evidence informed strategies in the classroom
- ✓ Adapt environments and personalise support for autistic learners
- ✓ Promote participation, inclusion and positive outcomes
- ✓ Build a portfolio of evidence demonstrating real impact in your setting

Eligibility

To be eligible, participants must:

- Be employed in a school or education setting
- Have employer support to complete the programme
- Be able to apply learning in their role and complete workplace activities
- Have the right to work and study in England

~~£12,000~~

£0 with Apprenticeship Levy funding

AT A GLANCE



Course duration
18 months



This course awards
Liberty Academy Trust Certification & Specialist Teaching Assistant Level 5



Access to
Online learning and training events
Includes expert delivery from Liberty Academy Trust, winners of the SEND Excellence Award 2026



Apprenticeship Levy Funding
Fully funded through the Apprenticeship Levy

Build expertise that makes a difference every day

Equip yourself and your school with the knowledge and practical strategies to support autistic pupils, helping them access learning, participate fully and achieve stronger outcomes.



Learn more and register at

<https://www.bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/autism-practitioner>

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[bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](https://www.bestpracticenetwork.co.uk)



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