



ILA

Independent Learning
Assistant

Are you supporting children with learning needs in your school?

Do they rely on adult support in order to learn?

Would you like all your pupils to be confident, competent learners who are able to learn independently?

Then this is the course for you!



ILA was developed by Kate Lee and Dawn Thorley. It aims to improve pupils' independent learning skills and is based upon the successful ELSA project.

The Avalon Outreach Service recognises that schools are facing more and more challenges in supporting the learning needs of all pupils. As a service we are committed to working together with schools to support the inclusion, achievement, and well being of all pupils. The ILA project is part of that commitment.

What is the ILA project?

The ILA project was developed, by the Educational Psychologists leading Outreach, to build the independent learning skills of pupils from within the school's own resources. It is based on the view that all children are different and they should be nurtured according to their individual needs. The ILA project recognises that every child is capable of independent learning when provided with the optimum conditions and can develop the skills necessary for this when their diverse needs are addressed. Independent learning skills are important for continued success and wellbeing into adulthood.

Who is the training for?

The ILA training is for **teaching assistants** who are looking to develop their skills to support pupils in their school to become confident and competent learners.

ILAs will receive



- 5 sessions of initial training from Educational Psychologists, Advisory Teachers and other skilled professionals
- Ongoing support and supervision from an Educational Psychologist
- Opportunities to continue to develop their skills and experience

Qualities that make a great ILA



Who do ILAs work with?

ILAs are trained to plan and deliver interventions for pupils experiencing learning difficulties at SEN Support and High Needs in their school. ILAs might be asked to work with pupils who are struggling to make independent progress in their learning; these pupils may appear anxious, sad, angry or disengaged. They may also support pupils to develop their self-esteem, problem-solving and communication skills.

What happens after training?

ILAs will be **able** to:

- ✓ Provide effective support within the classroom
- ✓ Evaluate when it is time to take a step back and allow the pupil to progress independently with support from class staff
- ✓ Develop programmes of support that are matched to pupil needs
- ✓ Carry out regular focussed sessions with individual pupils or small groups to improve learning
- ✓ Keep records and make resources to support development
- ✓ Share ideas with other staff about how to support pupils

ILAs will **need**:

- ✓ Half-termly group supervision facilitated by an Educational Psychologist
- ✓ Sufficient time to plan and deliver programmes of support
- ✓ Appropriate space to work with pupils and store resources
- ✓ A supportive line manager to promote the role of the ILA within the school. There will be a separate session for Headteachers/SENCo's to discuss how ILA's can best be supported in their role, including how best to monitor impact.

How do we know ILAs make a difference?

The ILA project is newly developed. It is closely modelled on the successful ELSA project which has been evaluated to show ELSAs have a positive impact on the development of children and young people. The ILA project is based upon psychological principles of learning and development. It aims to empower teaching assistants to support pupils to develop valuable independent learning skills. These are important for positive life outcomes.



When is ILA training available?

Please check the Avalon School website for further details. Information will also be emailed to Head Teachers and SENCOs.

ILA training will be delivered in host mainstream schools to enable easier access for all mainstream schools covered by Avalon Outreach.

Independent Learning and the work of an ILA
Assessment and identification of need

Differentiation and Positive Psychology

Learning to learn and the impact of learning on SEMH

The impact of SLCN and PSM needs on learning

Developing independent learners

Cost: There is no charge for this training. All teaching assistants booked onto this course are expected to attend every session; non-attendance will incur a charge to cover the place on the course and resources purchased.

Venue: Host mainstream schools – to be arranged
(Refreshments provided, but please bring a packed lunch).

Time: 9.15am – 3.00pm (refreshments will be available from 9am)

The cost of the course includes 5 days of training and 6 group supervision sessions all delivered by the educational psychology service. ILAs **must** attend at least 4 of these supervision sessions in order to complete the course and receive accreditation as an ILA. Also included will be resources and information provided throughout the course, including the book *Psychology for Teaching Assistants* written by Christopher Arnold and Jane Yeomans (worth £21.99), *What Children need to be Happy, Confident and Successful* written by Jeni Hooper (worth £16.99) and *Language Builders* guidebooks written by Elklan (worth £88).



To apply for a place please contact:

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For more information please contact:

Kate Lee or **Dawn Thorley** (Avalon Outreach leads; Educational Psychologists; ILA coordinators)
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