

Episode 46 - Happy Teacher's Aide Week - Liz

#046 - Happy Teacher's Aide Week to all those marvellous aides. Your work is so important and valued by lots of people. Keep doing what you're doing, keep assisting teachers, keep teaching your students, and keep fulfilling your very important role at your school. We all say thank you!

In this episode we meet Liz who is a teacher's aide, and who gives us an interesting insight into what it means to have this very special job!

Liz was born in Narooma, on the south coast of NSW. Her first job was working at a local supermarket and saved money to go overseas. She spent a year in England before coming back to Australia. She eventually met her husband and had 2 daughters.

Liz has been a teacher's aid at her school for 16 years. She started by volunteering at the school and was asked initially to work 2 hours a day. Over time these hours increased and she is now employed full time.

Jobs that Liz does include

- 4 of Multilit literacy support programs
- Numeracy program - Quicksmart
- Small groups for maths warm up activities
- Supervise students when they are on computers doing Reading Eggs or Reading Express
- Happy Hands group
- Move to Learn gross motor program
- Social stories
- ESL
- Speech therapy

Liz loves the one on one time with her kids at school. She even keeps a diary of what the kids do or have on as a way of showing her interest.

Liz finds challenging the idea of being reliant on funding from year to year. There's always that nervousness of what the following year would look like. Another challenge is sometimes you feel as though your skills are inadequate and you want to really help these kids.

What makes a good teacher's aide?

- You want to have to do it
- Willingness that if something doesn't work you have to change it
- Reassurance
- Instinctive
- Smiley and friendliness

- Shows initiative
- Hard working

In an ideal world Liz would love to have more time building on children's gross motor skills.

Liz loves to keep Christmas cards from her students that they give her. It reminds her that she has made a difference. She loves to see the progress you see in kids.

Liz's advice to someone who is interested in becoming a teacher's aide is to volunteer first at the school so staff and students know who you are. Staff can then see how well you relate to the students.

Teacher's aides usually get rewarded by a special coffee and flowers at Liz's school.

HAPPY TEACHER'S AIDE WEEK!!