Teacher Aides:

Specialisation: Gifted Learners

A practical course

on supporting and working with

identified gifted learners and their teachers

**PROSPECTUS AND COURSE OUTLINE**

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Developed and presented by Aotearoa Gifted NZ (formerly REACH Education), Accredited MoE PLD Providers

***Why are we presenting this course?***

Just like other special needs children, gifted learners have learning needs which are complex and different from the norm – needs which it can be very difficult for busy classroom teachers to meet in addition to all the other demands on their time. A Teacher Aide with specific skills in this area can provide invaluable support for both learner and teacher, helping to make the difference between success and failure.

***What does it cover?***

The course covers:

* The roles, responsibilities and relationships of the Teacher Aide position
* Giftedness from an Aotearoa New Zealand perspective – an overview
* A look at what this means for the individual learner in practical terms – the specific learning needs of the gifted learner
* Identifying your specific role in your school – who you will work with and in what ways
* Tools and resources you can use in your work with gifted learners and opportunities to use these in practice
* Evaluating what you’ve learned – where to from here.

***How is it delivered?***

* The course is delivered online, which means ease of access for you – no travelling, no after-school workshops, read in your own time.
* It comes in four compact modules, emailed to you fortnightly.
* Each module contains a short content section and a feedback sheet. The feedback sheet includes opportunities for you to trial some of the tools and resources we will share with you. You will be able to choose a task relevant to your situation. It is also a place where you can comment on what you’ve read or seen and raise any queries that have occurred to you.
* You will be supported throughout by one of our expert tutors who will provide individual guidance for you and answer any queries you have at any stage.

***What will it involve for you?***

* Reading the content section of each module.
* Carrying out any practical task set on your feedback sheet.
* Keeping a simple record of your work, using a format we will show you.
* Liaising with your tutor throughout.

***How will it be assessed?***

Your tutor will give you ongoing feedback throughout, and will make a final assessment based on your effective completion of the set practical tasks.

***What is the outcome?***

Successful completion of the course will mean that you are ready to work at Grade B on the Teacher Aide Work Matrix and will be well placed to move up to Grade C as your experience continues. (We will give you a copy of the Matrix). We will give you a document explaining what you have covered and certifying your satisfactory completion of the course. We may be available for ongoing mentoring where this would be helpful.

***Is there any cost?***

There is no cost for you as an individual. Your school will receive an invoice from us to cover our tutoring costs, but will be able to claim this and any other costs they incur in supporting you from the Ministry of Education.

***Are there any enrolment pre-requisites or conditions?***

Yes. There are two.

[1] Your chosen school must already either employ you in some capacity OR have agreed to employ you as a Teacher Aide while you are doing this course.

* Your school must FIRST apply for funding under this scheme.
* The Ministry will then supply you with an Application Reference Number (ARN).
* You must THEN include the ARN with your enrolment before we can accept it.
* This is a Ministry of Education requirement.
* While there is no guarantee that your employment would continue after the course is finished, it is certainly our hope that it would, and you would also have a qualification to support you in any subsequent employment in this role.

[2] You may yourself be the parent of a gifted child. We regard this as a very real asset, meaning that you will already have a valuable insight into the needs of such children. However, you should not take on this position in the hope of working directly with your own child. As in any other professional situation, objectivity is necessary, and for that reason, it would only be in exceptional circumstances that you would be placed with your own child. Normally you will work with other children. But remember that the insights you bring to your work will be shared with teachers and this ultimately benefits all the school’s gifted children, including yours.

***How can you enrol?***

Send your request for an enrolment form to us at aotearoagiftednz@gmail.com and we will email you the required form straightaway, along with the form you will need to ask your Principal to complete.

Any queries, please feel welcome to email us or phone our director on 027 276 0523.