

Good practice: Leadership of the learning assistants and their contribution to developing pupils wider achievements.

An integral aspect of school improvement has been the leadership roles made available through opportunities offered, and developed, by Learning Assistants. Learning assistants who have taken on leadership roles have contributed well to school improvement. They have been given the opportunity to increase their contribution to the school through considered activities which build on their strengths.

Throughout November and December 2008, West Dunbartonshire Council Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Support Officer trained learning assistants to use a variety of ICT hardware and software packages. In addition to enhanced learners' experiences within the school day, a thriving after school activity has been provided for P5 pupils using the *Comic Life* application to produce a 'kid's eye view' welcome handbook for prospective parents.

Other developments have included a key role in developing health and wellbeing for a member of the learning assistant staff who has led the Butyeko Asthma Breathing Group (in association with a Butyeko trained registered nurse). A learning assistant develops children's skills in communicating using British Sign Language. These skills will be of particular use next session by P7 buddies to support and communicate with a new P1 entrant. A group of learning assistants offer art activities as supported study to address social issues for children who are at risk of missing out.

Staff and pupils now benefit from the planning opportunity provided by timetabling learning assistants to plan with class teachers .

[Levenvale Primary School](#)