



Name: Mrs J K Samra

School: Nishkam School West London

Subject: Associate Teacher

My route into being an Associate Teacher

I have always had an affinity with children from a very early age, and was often asked to babysit and teach music. My family and friends noticed that I possessed the right qualities to make children feel secure, comfortable and keen to learn, so I was often asked to help them with their school work. Whilst studying for my GCSE's I began to coach junior students for my classical music teacher. I quickly learnt that various music methods encouraged confidence and development in pupils' learning capability, which provided positive results.

Whilst completing my Masters at university, I assisted various teachers at a London-run Punjabi school funded by the local council, and played an integral part in the planning and preparation of lessons, as well as assisting with a Council inspection. This gave me a real sense of how I could make a difference and, although it actually took me quite some time to pluck up the confidence to take up a formal Associate Teacher post, I'm so glad that I did because I derive enormous satisfaction from the work and the impact that teaching has on the children in my care.

Why I love my job

I have huge respect and admiration for teachers and teaching in general, so I wanted to find a way to add some value to the teaching profession, and being an Associate Teacher has allowed me to do just that. As a mother I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend lots of quality time with my own children during their formative years, and this has prepared me very well for the role I'm now lucky enough to have. It gives me enormous pleasure to see children develop and I cherish the opportunity to provide direct, and personal support to the children and the teaching staff.

Why Nishkam

Being a part of the Nishkam community has allowed me to understand its high expectations, values, aspirations for children and their goals to create the "future leaders" of society. It was an easy choice for me; Nishkam's principles, including its strong leadership dynamic, team ethos, cohesion and inclusivity make it a very special place in an ever-changing world, and it is a delight to work there. The teaching staff provide a great support network and the happy faces of the children are a joy to behold.

Next steps for me

In the future I hope to be able to do more to support extra-curricular activities, especially music, which remains a great personal passion and brings tremendous benefits to the rounded development of children. In addition to this I feel that I would like to develop my skills when providing one-to-one support to pupils.