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Element 1: Essay (pages 2-4)

How Carl Rogers' Person-Centred Approach and Other Humanist Theories Support the Work of TAs and LSAs in Schools

There are many theories on Teaching assistants (TAs) and Learning support assistants (LSAs) in schools. One of the most humanist theorists is Carl Rogers, His person-centred approach continues to support supportive roles in schools (Rogers, 1951). Other theorists such as Abraham Maslow contribute ideas that help TAs and LSAs create a learner focused and nurturing environment. Together these theorists provide a framework for supporting pupils emotionally, socially and academically.

Carl Roger's person centered approach is based on his belief that individuals have an innate drive towards growth, self-actualisation and learning. This solidifies his theory when these individuals are the right environment (Rogers, 1961). He argued that people excel when they experience empathy, unconditional positive regard and congruence towards others. These are central to the work of LSAs and TAs.

Empathy- TAs and LSAs show a great amount of empathy for pupils. They first need to identify the learners that seem to struggle with getting tasks started. This could be due to the pupil not understanding the task set, feeling anxious or embarrassed about doing the wrong thing. The TAs will pick up on this and show understanding to the learner to help with progress and build confidence. TAs can provide appropriate scaffolding (Rogers, 1961).

Unconditional positive regard- Tas and LSAs make sure to always support pupils who they have identified as needing that little support to make them feel appreciated, equal and acceptance. The TAs will not show any disregard to the pupils, they will make them feel safe and valued (Rogers, 1957). Some pupils have possibly only had negative feedback from peers or teachers or even home life. So, a TA will make sure that they have no judgement and support in the best way that they can.

Congruence- If the TA is consistent and genuine with the pupils, it makes the pupils feel more relaxed, eager to learn and feel seen. This helps pupils express themselves and develop emotional literacy (Rogers, 1957).

Rogers believed in an environment away from threat. TAs and LSAs act as a haven for pupils in large class settings. They offer reassurance and stability for learners who struggle socially and academically. (Rogers, 1961)

Maslow's Hierarchy of needs theorises that learners need to have their basic needs met before venturing on to higher education. (Maslow, 1943).

The importance of TAs and LSAs is that they are the foundation to help support pupils in all aspects in educational settings. TAs often encourage class participation, help build friendship groups and celebrate small achievements with the pupils (Maslow, 1943). This helps build their self-esteem and social skills.

There are other humanist theorists such as :

- **Rudolf Steiner**
- **Paulo Freire**

Conclusion

Paul Rogers person centred approach offers a strong theory of the importance of LSAs and TAs in school settings. These theorists help support learners to thrive in an environment that they wouldn't necessarily cope with alone. TAs help the learners to feel appreciated, heard, seen and give them the best possible learning experience and a great outcome in many factors for their lives beyond the classroom.

References

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