



The Akanksha Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide children from low-income communities with a high-quality education, enabling them to maximize their potential and transform their lives. Akanksha works primarily in the field of education, addressing formal education by initiating school reform through its School Project. Currently, Akanksha reaches out to the 9300 children and 3100 alumni through its 21 schools in Mumbai and Pune.

**Position:** Special Educator

**Function/Team:** Special Education

**Location:** Mumbai

**Compensation:** Based on skill sets, experience and sector standards

**Overview of the Team:** The Learning Support / Special education team is uniquely positioned to implement Akanksha's vision that aims at the holistic development of each child. The team strongly believes in operating as a part of one large ecosystem where it partners and collaborates with other stakeholders. At Akanksha we teach using a self-designed curriculum based on the principles of authenticity, inquiry and skill-development. It trains teachers and school leaders to develop strong instructional practices. The team works to identify and bridge achievement gaps through systematic data-driven inquiry. The team also supports schools in identifying and executing goals that develop conceptual knowledge along with the skills required for achieving full potential in children. The team aspires to assist and support students to become independent learners who rely on their strengths and abilities by appreciating, accepting and respecting individual differences.

## **Reports to: Learning Specialist- Special Education**

### **What your role will entail:**

- Keep the organisation mission and vision statements in mind.
- Engage in active listening with students, parents and other stakeholders.
- Implement the process of identifying the students having learning concerns.
- Evaluate and assess student progress against general instructional objectives; Assess student progress and determine the need for additional reinforcement or adjustments to instructional techniques.
- Communicate proactively and professionally about student assessment and behavior with teaching and non-teaching staff, individual students, their families and associated professionals, bearing in mind the impact of confidentiality regarding vulnerable persons.
- Develop and provide specialized instruction to meet the unique needs of students who have different learning needs and/or having learning gaps; Employ various teaching techniques, methods and principles of learning to enable students to meet their educational goals.
- Conduct remedial sessions.
- Support the school teachers to develop and provide or suggest specialized instruction to meet the unique needs of students who have different learning needs and/or having learning gaps in /out of the classroom; Employ various teaching techniques, methods and principles of learning to enable students to meet their educational goals.
- Suggest research-based specialized instruction to address the instructional goals and objectives contained within each student's educational plan. Provides consultation to classroom teachers regarding classroom adaptations, instructional modifications, adaptive equipment, behavior

modification plans and other similar instructional interventions to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

- Collaborate and consult with educational professionals.(i.e., learning specialist, school leader, subject teachers, counselors, social workers, etc.) regarding the needs of students.
- Collaborate with the team to develop the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for students to include: present levels of educational performance, education needs, instructional goals and objectives, and the special education and related services required to meet those goals.
- Support and guides the teacher or other stakeholders to implement annual Individualized Educational Program (IEP) plans.
- Act as a daily point of contact for internal and external stakeholders, including the students themselves as their individual needs dictate.
- Updating the school - learning support drive with the objective of documentation.
- Updating the learning specialist with everyday functioning.
- Assisting the school in getting the required board concessions for the child. Networking and coordinating with related agencies for the same.
- Assisting learning specialist in creating awareness about LD through central and school based professional development sessions.
- Advocate on behalf of the student's needs to classroom teachers and administration.
- Coordinate with professional support staff such as speech pathology, audiology, interpreting, psychological assessment, occupational therapy, social work and medical services.

## **What you need for this role:**

### **Experience:**

- 2-3 years of classroom teaching or remedial experience preferred.

### **Knowledge/Skills:**

- Knowledge of the principles, practices and procedures of special education and specialty area.
- Knowledge of the principles and methodology of effective teaching and child Development.
- Ability to deliver and articulate oral presentations and written reports.
- Ability to effectively analyze needs and problems objectively.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with children, students, parents, and different stakeholders.
- Adaptability to different school cultures.
- Knowledge of relevant technology; such as computers and iPads.
- Knowledge and skills in working with children with ADD/ADHD, Autism and behavior and emotional disabilities.
- Willingness to travel within cities in the country, for now - Mumbai/ Pune.
- Attitude to grow with team and willingness to learn from children and fellow teammates.
- Must have the ability and proven ability to report to work on a regular and punctual basis.
- Engage in professional development on a continual basis.

### **Education :**

- Bachelors / Masters' degree in Special Education - Learning disability/difficulty.