

Experiences, Reflections and Challenges of Practice Teaching

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Session Plan

- Practical tips, preparing, first steps
- Student workload
- Types of Students
- General Issues that can arise
- Social Pathways and the Three Way Network
- What is a successful placement?
- The student not achieving competencies
- The Practice Teacher Map

Preparing

- Do I actually have the time , at this time, to give the student?
- Consult with colleagues...are there any workplace challenges?
- Gather relevant reading
- Considering what work might be suitable or guiding your diary for the start of the placement.
- Do a clear up/ organise your office, desk, files, before the student arrives
- What is the role of the practice teacher?.....to facilitate and support students but not merely to pass them!

First Steps

- Establish expectations immediately
- Fears, hopes and expectations exercise.
- Supervision agreement
- Timetable for the first week or two
- Timetabling the submission of Learning Incidents from the first day and sticking to this.
- Schedule for the completion of the mid-way and end of placement report.
- Schedule supervision sessions from the outset.
- Be clear on who is responsible for Supervision notes

Student Workload

- Too much and too little
- Student anxiety
- Practice Teacher Anxiety
- Liaise with Tutor
- Timeframes
- Single Handed Work
- Shadowing other social workers- feedback...
- Group Work
- Being Creative

Types of Students

- What type of student do you have in mind...
- Mature Students
- Inexperienced Students
- The Silent Student
- The Overwhelmed student
- The Traumatised student
- The Compliant Student
- The Capable Student
- The Overly Confident Student
- Students with additional needs

General Issues that can arise

- Terminology and Social Work “Speak”, TLA’s
- Dealing with feedback from colleagues
- Difficulties between a colleague and a student
- Line managers/ Colleagues assigning work to students
- Confidentiality
- Professionalism: Social Media, dress code, etc
- Students experiencing personal difficulties
- Competition between students
- Having a colleague who can step in if you are ill, etc.

Social Work Pathway and Three Way Discourse

- Malcolm Payne's (2008) "What is Professional Social Work: 2nd Ed". Policy Press, Bristol. Pages 6-21.

Fundamental Question: What does social work mean to you and how does your current role fall within the social work profession?

- Discuss with the student their journey into social work and your own.
- Your role and the agency's position within the three way discourse of Therapeutic- Social Order – Transformational (See handout)



Group discussion:

What does a successful placement look like?

The student who is not achieving competencies

- It is normal for students to make mistakes, not know the answers and require a lot of direction.
- Be clear in assigning work what is expected
- Query any issues arising with the student immediately
- Be kind and empathetic but clear
- State specific actions to resolve/ learn
- Limits of the practice teacher role
- If no improvement liaise with the college tutor
- Additional three way meetings



The Practice Teacher Map

(see handout)



Questions and Thank You!!