

Orientation to the practice learning site

WHO TAKES THE SUGAR?

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

Finding your way around a new place is seldom easy. Remind yourself of when you started a new job and you will have an idea of how students feels when they start a placement. The purpose of this activity is to help students to orientate themselves to the placement as quickly as possible in a way that reflects the active way in which they will be learning to practise throughout the placement.

Method

This is an activity best done by students on their own and it can be introduced on the first day.

The purpose of the activity needs to be carefully explained as:

- an example of the kind of activity the student will be doing
- a means to see how the student completes a task
- a fun way to feel at home and find out about the placement

Tell students what your expectations are - you expect them to complete most of the questions, but there may be a few they have not been able to find out. (This introduction should take about 15 minutes).

Arrange a time later the next day to find out how students are getting on. You are not expecting them to have completed everything by then, but it will give you both an opportunity to see if there are any major difficulties. (5-10 minutes, but more time needed if the student is finding difficulties).

Arrange a time three or four days into the placement to review the student's work on the Orientation exercise. (About 30 minutes).

Variations

This activity can be used in any setting, though the questions need to be tailored to the specific placement. When devising a similar exercise, ask yourself which people and places are likely to be significant for the student during the placement, so you can construct appropriate questions. Are you going to have 'true-false' questions or open ones? How far are the questions going to focus on the 'inside' or lead the student into the community?

You will need to consider whether to consult people in advance; you want this to be a positive experience for the student and not everybody takes kindly to questioning.

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WHO TAKES THE SUGAR? in Oakbrook Home

True False

- The oldest resident is Ivy Pinner
- The friends of Oakbrook raised £1,500 last year
- The hairdressers visit on Fridays
- The *Red Lion* pub has a ramp to the side door
- The senior staff group decide how to spend the annual budget
- Relatives can visit residents at any time
- There are no black residents
- The deputy principal is the only fully qualified first-aider
- There are no vegetarian residents
- Ann is the only staff member who takes sugar in her tea

WHO WEARS THE SANDALS? in the community

- Where is the nearest Post Office?
- How long is the waiting list for a place at the local Day Nursery?
- How does the user committee at the Day Centre for physically handicapped people work?
- How much does it cost to hire a room at the Community Centre?
- How many Asian home helps work in the area?
- What different kinds of care does Oakbrook Elderly Persons' Home offer?
- Where are the foster homes in the area?
- When is the Rights and Advice Centre open and how does it get its funding?
- What are the average waiting times for council tenancies in our area?
- Who wears the sandals?