

Using Student Learning Styles in Supervision

Field Instructor Enrichment

2010



Objectives

- Review reflective supervision best practices
- Identify three types of learning styles
- Complete *Assessing My Learning Style* tool
Explore suggestions to enhance student learning based on their style
- Apply an understanding of the impact of learning styles on reflective supervision

Reflective supervision supports professional development through promoting understanding of what the student brings to the situation that can help or hinder the change process.

Objectives of Reflective Supervision

- Establish a trusting relationship
- Be emotionally present
- Listen, teach, guide, nurture and support
- Apply integration of emotion and reason
- Foster reflective process for student
- Attend to how reactions to the content affect the process
- Allow time for personal reflection

Best Practice Guidelines

- Set regularly scheduled meetings that protect against interruptions
- Create an agreed upon an agenda
- Model openness, curiosity and emotional availability
- Avoid harsh judgment
- Observe and listen carefully
- Ally with student strengths
- Support development of student's observation and listening skills

Best Practice Guidelines

- Invite sharing of details
- Listen for student's emotions
- Invite student to talk about feelings
- Respond with empathy
- Encourage exploration of thoughts/feelings
- Maintain balance of attention to case and student
- Reflect on process in preparation for next meeting
- Be available in crisis

Understanding Adult Learning

- Adults learn best when the focus is on process first and content second
- A student's learning style impacts how a field instructor approaches them with information
- People have a tendency toward one style
- Look for patterns of traits that show learning style

Three Types of Learning Styles

- Learn through seeing
- Learn through hearing/talk
- Learn through touching or doing

Reflective Question

- Think about your experience as a learner and teacher.
 - What works for you?
 - What challenges you?
 - What role does learning style play?

Assessing Learning Style

- What's my learning style?
- Complete the Assessing My Learning Style form.
- What did you learn about yourself?
- How might this affect the way you supervise others?

Seeing Style: Suggestions for Supervision

- Visual materials
- Note taker
- Quiet environment
- Multi-media
- Details



Hearing and Talking: Suggestions for Supervision

- Discussion
- Presentations
- “Bounce” ideas
- Repeat information out loud
- Story telling

Touching and Doing: Suggestions for Supervision

- Movement
- “Hands on”
- Creative work space
- Skim first
- Breaks

Reflective Question

- Think about your practice experience.
 - What suggestions or examples do you have for using learning style in supervision?

Reflective Questions

- Think about your learning style and that of your last student. Given what you now know, how would you approach supervision?
- What challenges do you foresee supervising a student with styles different from yours?
- What learning aids could you use to capitalize on different learning styles?

Sources

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