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Taking academia out into practice

An innovative approach to today's academic teaching as a method to meet the learning and emotional need of nursing students whilst out on clinical practice

Ilana Pressick and Lisa Taylor

Birmingham City University, United Kingdom

Newly qualified nurses feel unprepared for practice and lack confidence in their own abilities according to our literature review. Birmingham City University with the support of Birmingham Children's Hospital have set up a new innovative education programme to address this. This education programme brings theory to the students whilst they are out on placement addressing issues that the literature review has brought to light. The programme was carefully aligned against their nursing programme. Whilst learning outcomes were set for sessions they were fluent in adapting to the learning needs of the students. Qualitative research was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of this new educational programme, inform future practice and validate the programme. Initial findings indicate that the programme is very effective in addressing some of the gaps identified in our original literature review. It empowered students to confidently take knowledge and consciously apply to practice but also to recognise the theory they apply.

Strong research themes emerging as reported by student are:

- An increase in confidence not only in regard to clinical skills such as medicine management but also in regard to non-technical skills like communication and self-awareness.
- Emotional support from staff and an increase in peer support and identification.
- That the success to their learning whilst out on placement was due to the adaptability of sessions to meet their learning needs.

The benefits of this programme have been endorsed by the research, resulting in the programme expanding and implementation across different hospital sites are currently being planned. Most importantly, this initiative seems to make a real difference to our students and in turn will hopefully have a positive impact on the way in which they care for children and their families.

Biography

Ilana Pressick is a Teaching Fellow within the Department of Children and Young People's Health at Birmingham City University. Ilana has worked in different intensive care settings since qualifying in 2009 and completed numerous post graduate nursing qualifications. She joined the university in 2016 and teaches on undergraduate and postgraduate courses in nursing. Currently she is involved in a research project exploring the results of taking theory into practice and she is a participant in the HEFCE-funded classroom observation research project. She has also presented at numerous local conferences sharing her current research and her creative approach to teaching.

Lisa Taylor is a member of the Department for Children and Young People's Health at Birmingham city University (BCU). She share her role between BCU and Birmingham Children's Hospital, supporting students out in practice. Prior to working at the university she worked as a general paediatric nurse in a local trust, during which she gained experience in a wide variety of areas including managerial and leadership skills working as a ward manager.