

Top tips for partners on creating a great practice-based learning environment for learners

1 Opportunities

Consider what learning opportunities there are within your team. No setting is too specialist, there are always transferable elements and opportunities for exposure to a setting.

2 Value

Make learners feel valued and part of the team. Support them with an induction, ensure they have a space for their belongings. Include them in tea and lunch breaks, even if its virtual. Add them to team communication emails and WhatsApp groups.

3 Support

Let learners know who to go to if they need support, how to access staff wellbeing, guidelines and learning resources.

4 Teamwork

Get the whole team to support learners, it's not just down to one team member everyone has valuable knowledge they can share.

5 The bigger picture

Not all learner activity needs to be service user facing, seeing the bigger picture and how teams work is important too. Seeing how dietitians may work in other settings such as research, care homes, public health and charities is invaluable to appreciating how transferrable and expansive the knowledge, skills and attributes of a dietitian are.

6 Support services

Use other support services in practice-based learning timetables, do they know how kitchens and meal services work? Can they spend time in an MDT, or shadow our other AHPs, nursing, research or health and social care colleagues etc.?

7 Caseload

If you are supporting a learner, be mindful of your caseload for that day, it may need to be readjusted, feed that back to your team.

8 Responsibilities

Show learners you trust and value them by giving them responsibilities and support.

9 Technology

Learners are often great at tech and have up to date knowledge. Ask them to review apps, social media, talks or service user information and make suggestions for improvements. Staff then have the knowledge of experience to help bring this all together.

10 Safe environment

Get the whole team to support learners, it's not just down to one team member everyone has valuable knowledge they can share.

11 Reflection time

Give learners time to reflect on complex service users and experiences.

12 Communication

If you have any concerns, don't let the situation grow. Talk to your placement co-ordinator or university if needed

