

Then and Now – an exploration of novice nursing students experiences of mentoring in practice placement settings

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Presentation Aims

- To present the findings of a small scale piece of research, undertaken in stage one of the Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD).
- To invite discussion in relation to the presented findings.



Background context

- In placements, student nurses are facilitated by a qualified mentor (NMC requirement). Half of their course time is spent in a practice setting.
- Students are required to work directly, or indirectly with their allocated mentor for 40% of their placement time.
- Students commence the course with varying levels of healthcare experience.
- Mentors are qualified staff who have completed a post-registration module at a university.



Overview of the research

- Undertaken over a 12 month period – from start to finish.
- A literature review identified a raft of literature exploring the challenges faced by mentors, but minimal exists that explores the experiences of students of being mentored.
- A qualitative design was adopted to seek the views of students in relation to their experiences of being mentored in a placement setting.
- Year one students were chosen to participate, following the completion of their first placement.



Findings

- Belonging
- Identity



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Quotations from students

“I wanted the team to like me and support me whilst I was on the ward.”

“I didn’t want to be a burden to my mentor as I knew they were busy professionals, but it was important to my learning that I felt part of the team.”

“This was a new experience to me, and I felt that I learnt much more once I had settled into the placement and grew more comfortable with the people around me, not just my mentor.”



Quotations continued.....

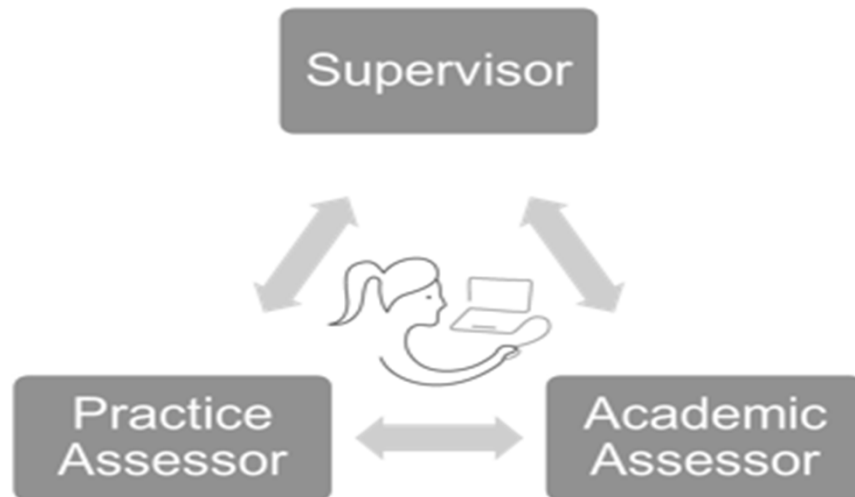
“Although I have worked on a ward before, I didn’t tell my mentor this as I wanted to be treated the same as someone with no experience.”

“I would say that in the first week I was an outsider.....new to the team and probably seen as someone who would take up the time of the staff.....but this didn’t last long and staff soon included me in discussions and conversations.”

“I was so pleased to be invited to the ward’s little Christmas party, it made me feel though I was one of them.”



What next?



Thank you for listening.....

