

Advice For Students With Dyslexia During Their Clinical Placement

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Introduction

The aim of this leaflet was to firstly explain what dyslexia and dyscalculia is for those who have recently been diagnosed. And secondly to provide students with dyslexia a foundation from which they can build up a support strategy to reduce their anxieties during their clinical placements.

Being dyslexic means that you have difficulty with academic work such as reading, writing and spelling. But it also means that you may have problems with your memory, co-ordinating and processing information.

Dyscalculia means that you have difficulty understanding numbers. You may have problems in learning formulas to ensure you can appropriately calculate drugs.

The best person to create a strategy for coping with your dyslexia or dyscalculia is you, as you are already aware of how it affects you.

You may, like me, have been ridiculed and humiliated at school for making reading or spelling error's. Therefore disclosing can be difficult. This may be because of a fear that staff will make an unfair assumption about you. Whether you disclose that you have dyslexia or not are very much an individual decision. However the implications for not disclosing can be that support is not offered and discrimination will not be effectively worked upon.

Under the disability discrimination Act 1995 reasonable adjustments should be made for any student with a disability. Reasonable adjustments occur when a disabled individual experiences 'substantial disadvantages' it ensures that action is taken to either remove or to reduce the disadvantage (DRC, 1995).

Conclusion

When investigating how I could manage my own clinical placement better, I found that there was little literature with practical advice. What was available seemed to be impractical for me to use. Therefore this booklet was designed to include all the information that I would have found useful to have had access to during the start of my training.

I hope that this leaflet has given you the confidence to discuss how your dyslexia or dyscalculia affects you with your mentor and other staff during your clinical placement experience.

Every student with dyslexia will have slightly different needs therefore it is important to note that dyslexia or dyscalculia is as individual as the person who has it is.

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