

Reflective questions

Learning from a project-based placement

These questions are designed to support reflective continuing professional development (CPD) based on Melissa and Sherin's experience of a project-based placement with the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT). They can be used by learners and practice educators to guide reflection, supervision, and discussion

Preparation and readiness

- Learners:** What are your expectations of a project-based or non-traditional placement?
What could you do to help you prepare for an unfamiliar placement experience?
- Educators:** How do you prepare learners for placements that differ from traditional clinical environments?
What information, structure, or resources can help learners feel confident when entering a new learning context?

Applying occupational therapy in different contexts

- Learners:** How will occupational therapy theory be applied in non-clinical settings?
How would you explain the value of occupation in a project, leadership, or organisational setting?
- Educators:** How do you support learners to apply occupational therapy theory in non-clinical settings?
What opportunities exist within your practice to demonstrate the wider relevance of occupational therapy?

Supervision and reflection

- Learners:** How can supervision support your learning when completing a project-based placement?
- Educators:** How can you use supervision to help learners apply theory in their practice within non-traditional placements?

Leadership, creativity and innovation

- Learners:** What opportunities are there to develop leadership skills during placement?
Reflect on a time when you have had the opportunity to influence, lead, or create something new.
- Educators:** How do you create opportunities for learners to demonstrate leadership and initiative?
What opportunities exist within your setting to encourage creativity and innovative thinking?

Exploring future career opportunities

- Learners:** How has this case study influenced your views about potential occupational therapy career pathways?
What skills developed in a project-based placement could transfer to future practice?
- Educators:** How can placements support learners to explore a range of career pathways within occupational therapy?
How do you help learners recognise and articulate transferable skills?

Personal summary

- Learners:** What are your key learning points from this reflection?
What actions will you take forward into your future placements or practice?
(e.g. applying theory, engaging in supervision, developing leadership skills, embracing new learning opportunities)
- Educators:** What are your key learning points from this reflection?
What actions will you take forward into your practice?
(e.g. placement design, supervision approaches, supporting leadership and innovation, creating non-traditional learning opportunities)

Capture these reflections and learning in your RCOT CPD