

Preceptorship & Flying Start England – My Experiences

Preceptorship

The Preceptorship scheme involves a newly-qualified member of staff (the “preceptee”) being assigned a “preceptor”, who is usually a senior member of staff in the same institution. The idea is to guide the newly-qualified member of staff into full-time work seamlessly, always being on-hand to assist in any way.

My experience of the Preceptorship scheme is very good. Even from the first week of participating in the scheme, I have received good support from my preceptor and have always had the opportunity to review my progress and ask questions about anything I have been struggling with.

As part of the scheme, I was also required to evaluate my progress and experiences of my first year as a fully-qualified radiographer by completing a selection of “reflective templates”, which were then stored in a Preceptorship folder. These templates were extremely useful in documenting my own personal experiences and also how I learnt from them. Being able to write down my thought processes and how I reacted to certain situations, helped me to reflect, evaluate and learn. This is very important in developing as a good healthcare professional because you learn how to adapt and deal with potentially difficult situations.

Using your preceptor as a “learning tool” is also useful because they can often give you advice or information that will help you with certain experiences you may encounter. Being able to tap in to a more senior colleague’s knowledge will only help to develop your own professional expertise.

Flying Start England

The idea of Flying Start England is to run alongside the Preceptorship program being piloted in different healthcare institutions. The Flying Start website offers ideas, reflective templates, learning outcomes, self-test activities and portfolio documents, all geared towards helping you complete your Preceptorship program.

Personally, I have only used this website to help give me ideas to complete my reflective templates, as part of my Preceptorship scheme. Ideas involved with communication and equality and diversity, were very good and helped me to learn about coping in difficult situations. As a guide, the website is extremely useful but I feel it also lacks content in some areas, meaning that I could not use it as my sole reference during my Preceptorship.

However, as a “learning tool”, it is extremely useful and will definitely give some informative ideas to include in the Preceptorship scheme.

Overall

On the whole, the Preceptorship scheme is a helpful, informative and constructive tool which will assist in developing newly-qualified healthcare professionals. It is vitally important to learn from experience and progress professionally in order to improve the standard of care you provide on a

daily basis. If you can take the time to reflect on how things could have been handled better, or what could have been done differently, you will develop as a healthcare professional. Preceptorship enables you to do this.