

Tricks and Tips for Fieldwork Education: **Tips on Orienting Students to the Learning Experience**

- **Create a sense of excitement.** In demonstrating your enthusiasm about your field, focus on areas of general interest, not esoteric topics that are beyond the student's capacities.
- **Present the big picture**, i.e., the broad, overall goals of the placement. What are the major competencies the student is expected to develop through this experience? Be careful not to overwhelm the student with details.
- **Point out the relevance** of the placement to the student's career as an Occupational Therapist. Ask the student about his or her career plans and relate the goals of the placement to them.
- **Help the student understand *his or her* role and responsibilities in your practice.** What is the student expected to do and what may he or she not do? Your expectations must be essentially congruent with the expectations of the on-campus course director.
- **Help the student understand *your* role** and responsibilities as a clinician-teacher. The student may be especially concerned about your role as an evaluator. Review evaluation forms with the student to clarify how evaluations will be conducted.
- **Let the student know *when you are free*** to work with him or her and ***how*** you plan to have the student work with you. Provide specific information about the timing and structure of the work you plan to do with the student. Also tell the student how he or she can get in touch with you in an emergency.

(from Westberg J and Jason H. Collaborative clinical education: the foundation of effective health care. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1993.)