

'10 top tips' for students who are about to undertake a practice placement with people with learning disabilities.

From COT-Specialist Section -People with Learning Disabilities

1	Make contact with your practice placement educator and visit the placement before commencing if possible.
2	Learn the difference between Mental health and learning disabilities
3	Read about what a learning disability is and difficulties people with learning disabilities may experience
4	Tell your practice educator about any difficulties working with this service user group may pose to you
5	Read national policies relevant to learning disabilities ie Valuing People
6	Look at the COT-SS-PLD pages on the COT website
7	Read the practice principles published by COT for adults with a learning disability
8	Request a reading list from you practice placement educator / find articles or books which are relevant (Check the hOT topics listings from the COT library website i.e. Learning Disabilities 1: Intellectual disabilities, Learning disabilities 2: Autism spectrum disorders, client centred practice, etc)
9	Read the discussion forum on the COT-SS-PLD website for current 'hot topics'
10	Look at relevant websites e.g. Learning disability foundation, BILD