

Skills and personal qualities that contribute to the development of academic writing

Today I will looking at the following three skills : Plagiarism, Critical Thinking, Effective Reading and Note Taking, that contribute to academic writing

Plagiarism

Whilst researching for academic studies it is important that we are able to reference our work as if we do not do this, we are at risk of accidentally plagiarising other people's work, Day, T (2018) mentions that "In essence, plagiarism involves passing off someone else's idea's as though they are our own". Like Day T, Moore S, et al, (2010) also states that "Plagiarism is a term used to describe a practice that involves knowingly taking and using another person's work and claiming it directly or indirectly as your own" Developing conscience skills to reference and paraphrasing can be developed and practice with the correct support and study as according to Kettel R, and DeFauw D, (2018) " Avoiding plagiarism is a challenge because students do not know how to paraphrase appropriately.....". Being able to reference correctly will help us as students to understand what we are studying and reading, whilst ensure that we are giving the appropriate credit to those who have researched the subject we are learning about during our academic studies

Conclusion

By developing these effective academic skills along with other skills will help us as students develop our knowledge within the early years sector and children's early development. From my research on the key skills of plagiarism, effective reading, note taking and critical thinking are apart of a few important contributions and qualities towards academic studies. I am looking forward to developing and honing my referencing skills further to avoid plagiarism during my future academic work. Through previous childcare and other training I have developed reasonable note taking skills and am eager to continue to develop this skill to ensure that they are effective and I feel that this will help me enhance my reading skills to become a more active reader as I progress through the course. I feel that I lack effective critical thinking skills and am looking forward to increasing my ability in this area.

Critical Thinking

Cottrell S, (2017) states that "Critical thinking gives you the tools to use scepticism and doubt constructively so that you can analyse what is before you". Critical thinking enables us to discover new information about our environment and the world around us in addition to challenging our thoughts and ideas on different subjects, enabling us to analyse what we know and look at it from different view points and opinions. Eales Reynolds L, (2013) states that "Critical thinking requires us to question everything, including things that may normally be accepted *de facto* By taking a challenging approach to knowledge and perceived wisdom, you develop your own understanding and enhance your personal knowledge of the world". Critical thinking helps develop our communication and listening skills, problem solving skills and as mention looking at it from different angles. Haber J, (2020) supports this by saying "One of the skills researchers and educators agree critical thinkers should possess and practice is the ability to look at a problem from a different perspective.....". This will prompt open mindedness and the ability to adapt to different scenarios.



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Effective Reading and Note Taking

Effective reading and note taking will help engage students with what they are studying and help them to retain important information. Pritchard A, (2008) suggests that "To be effective you have to read with a purpose, with a plan and with concentration. Effective readers are organised; they do not just look at words, they search for their meaning . They assimilate what is being read with what they already know". Note taking can help students become active and effective readers as they are adding to their learning and understanding what they are reading, Cottrell S, (2019) supports this by saying "....if they don't make their own notes using effective strategies, they waste time, can't find materials they have covered and remember well the material covered....", in addition to this Day (2018) also supports this by saying that 'note-taking and annotating can help you- * focus your attention as you read *create a record of what you have read *link new information and ideas with what you have previously knew *organise and develop your ideas *research and plan your assignments *revise for exams". Each student is an individual and may have different reading methods for example they may prefer audiobooks to a physical book and may find ways to make this an effective form of reading for them and adapt their note taking to help make their reading skills become more active in their reading..



References

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