Using Motivational Interviewing to Support Student Professionalism on Fieldwork

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Stage/ Description	Educator's Role	Useful Approaches	Questions to Ask
Precontemplation Student is unaware or under-aware of problems. No intention to change behavior. Key issues: Reluctance, rebellion, resignation, rationalization	 Help students consider if they have a problem. Provide information linking problem behaviors and real-life OT practice. Raise awareness and doubt. Remember that the goal is NOT to help them change immediately, but to help move them to contemplation. 	 Establish rapport, ask permission, build trust. Elicit the student's perceptions of the problem. Offer factual information about the consequences of behavior on grades, practice, etc. Explore the pros and cons of change with the student. Express concern and "keep the door open" Be aware that the student may be aware of the problems his/her behavior causes, but still not looking to change it. 	 What concerns have others had about your behavior? Would it be OK if I offered some observations from our interactions? Would it be OK if I offered some concerns about how this might affect you in the future? What are some of the benefits to (describe the behavior) that you see? What are some of the drawbacks to (describe the behavior) that you see?
Contemplation Student is aware of the problem and is considering a change, but has no commitment to take action. Key issue: Ambivalence	 Help students explore feelings of ambivalence and the conflicts they feel about changing their behavior. Move motivation from extrinsic to intrinsic. 	 Normalize ambivalence. Elicit and guide student to weigh the pros and cons of the status quo and possible change. Help the student to examine professional goals in relation to the change being considered. Emphasize the student's free choice, responsibility, and self-efficacy. Remember that interest in change does not mean that one is committed to change. Do not confuse these. 	 What would life be like if you changed (the behavior)? What do you see happening if you continue to (describe the behavior)? Times when you have (describe the change; examples: "related well to peers," "did well managing your time," etc.), what did you do to make that happen? If you were to make this change, how might you go about it? How important is this change to you right now? Why is it not less important to you?

Preparation

Student intends to change and is preparing to do so. May make small behavioral changes.

Key issue: Gathering ideas, resources, confidence

- Help students work to strengthen their commitment to change.
- Help students explore their resources and strategies to support the change.
- Help students decide on appropriate, achievable actions.

- Assess strength of commitment.
- Examine barriers and elicit solutions.
- Acknowledge the significance of the decision to change.
- Affirm the student's ability to be successful.
- Remember that change is not automatic, and ambivalence is still present.
- Explain that relapse will not disrupt your relationship with the student.

- How important is this change to you right now? Why is it not less important to you?
- If you were to make this change, what would the first week be like for you?
- What do you think you will do?
- What is your next step?
- If you were to make this change, what might get in your way? How can you address
 it?
- Would it be OK if I offered some possible ideas to help you make this change?
- Who might support you in this?

Action

Student takes decisive action to change.

Key issue: Small steps

- Help students execute their action plans.
- Help students problem-solve new barriers.
- Be a source of encouragement and support.
- Reinforce the benefits of the change.

- Acknowledge student's feelings and experiences.
- Support a realistic view of change through small steps.
- Acknowledge difficulties.
- Help student assess and call on resources and support.
- Reaffirm student's commitment to change.

- What is working for you right now?
- What hasn't worked so far? What might you do about this?
- How are you handling it when things don't go as you had planned?
- Who or what is supporting you in making this change?
- What resources or support do you wish you had that you don't currently have?

Maintenance

Student works to consolidate gains and prevent relapse.

Key issue: Stability

- Help students with relapse prevention.
- Support self-efficacy.
- Evaluate present actions and long-term plan for change.
- Anticipate difficulties and address them.
- Remember that maintenance takes more action and planning than you'd think. Relapse is possible.
- What have you found to be most effective for you in making this change?
- What do you anticipate becoming difficult for you in the future? How might you handle that?
- What has worked before that you might try again?

Relapse

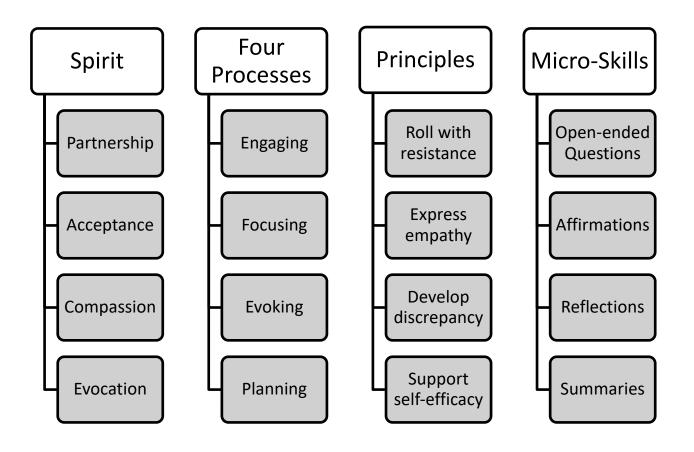
Student returns to previous behaviors.
Usually returns to contemplation stage.

Key issue: What next?

- Help students cope with the consequences of relapse.
- Help students decide what to do next.
- Help student re-enter the change cycle.
- Determine where he/she is re-entering the cycle so you can provide appropriate support.
- Commend any willingness to reconsider positive change.
- Explore the relapse as a learning opportunity.
- Emphasize the positive aspects of the student's attempts to change.
- Express concern and disappointment about the relapse.
- Support the student's self-efficacy.

- What did you learn as a result of the process?
- How are you feeling now?
- Prior to (the relapse), what was working for you?
- Prior to (the relapse), what wasn't working so well?
- What other skills or resources do you think you might benefit from?
- Would it be OK if I offer my views on where you're at right now?

Key Concepts in Motivational Interviewing



Sample Script for MI with a FW Student

		,
FW Educator:	I asked to meet with you today to talk about how things are going for you	Open-ended question
	so far on this placement. What are your thoughts about your performance	
	so far?	
Student:	I think it's good. My patients like me. Things are good.	
FW Educator:	You've worked hard to build rapport with your patients.	Affirmation
Student:	Yes, I like them and they like me.	
FW Educator:	What other things are you noticing in your performance so far?	Open-ended question
Student:	Nothing else really. I think I'm doing pretty good.	
FW Educator:	I agree that you're doing well with your patients so far. How are you feeling about your time management?	Open-ended question
Student:	Well, sometimes I have really busy days, like on Tuesdays. And other days	
	there aren't as many patients scheduled. Or they cancel.	
FW Educator:	Sometimes you have a lot going on, and other times you have a little	Reflection
Student:	break.	
FW Educator:	Yes. Those busy days really make me tired.	Affirmation
Student:	You work really hard on those days.	
FW Educator:	Yeah. I go home and I'm exhausted.	Open-ended question
	And what about the days when you don't have as many patients	
Student:	scheduled? How do you feel about how you use your time on those days?	
	Pretty good. I try to help around the clinic when I can. I get my notes	
FW Educator:	done, then I clean up or find something else to do to help.	Reflection
Student:	Staying busy and contributing to the clinic is important to you.	
FW Educator:	I want to contribute. And I get bored when I don't have much to do.	(Asking permission)
	I can understand that. Do you mind if I offer an observation about your	
Student:	use of unscheduled time?	
	Sure, I guess. I mean, I try to help out. I don't see why we would need to	_
FW Educator:	talk about that. But go ahead.	Reflection
	You contribute a lot around here. It doesn't seem that important to talk	
Student:	about the other ways you use your free time.	
FW Educator:	Right. But go ahead.	(Sharing subjective
	Well, I've noticed that sometimes when you have a cancellation or some	data)
Ctudont	unscheduled time, we can't find you when we're looking for you. Other	
Student:	staff have reported that they've seen you taking breaks outside. Yeah, I take breaks every so often. I don't know why we need to talk about	
FW Educator:	that, though.	
FVV Educator.	, 3	Reflection
Student:	Taking an extra break during the day doesn't seem like a big deal, as long as you get all your work done.	Reflection
Student.	Well, yeah. I mean, what else am I supposed to do? Plus, it's stressful	
FW Educator:	here sometimes. I need to get outside.	
FVV Educator.	You take breaks because this work is difficult sometimes, and you just	Reflection
	need to get away and collect your thoughts. And you're getting all your	Kenection
Student:	work done.	
FW Educator:	Right. And it's not like anyone needs me at that time.	
Student:	What might happen if someone did need you?	Open-ended question
FW Educator:	I guess they'd have to go outside to find me. But that isn't that difficult.	Open-ended question
I VV Luucatoi.	When a staff member needs your help or you get a call from a patient, we	Amplified Reflection
Student:	should go out to the parking lot to call you in.	/ implifica Kellection
Judent.	Well, I can see where that could be difficult	
	vven, i can see where that could be difficult	1