

Case Studies/Activities

Chapter 6: Psychological approaches: their application and relevance to social work

Alzheimer's disease

Part A: If you decide to focus on Alzheimer's disease visit one or both of the following websites and read over the information contained in the factsheets and guides on the site:

Alzheimer's Scotland – Action on Dementia http://www.alzscot.org/information_and_resources – see document links under the 'About Dementia' tab. You may wish to look at a number of the documents, but for the purpose of this exercise we recommend you read:

- What is dementia?
- Alzheimer's disease
- Communicating with someone who has dementia: 12 helpful hints

Alzheimer's Society <http://alzheimers.org.uk/> You may wish to explore this site but initially have a look at some of the information under the 'About Dementia' tab. In particular see:

- What is dementia?
https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/info/20007/types_of_dementia/1/what_is_dementia?_ga=1.132441358.1442642172.1490628673
- Alzheimer's disease:
https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/info/20007/types_of_dementia/2/alzheimers_disease
- Communicating and language:
https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/info/20064/symptoms/90/communicating_and_language

In addition to visiting one of the websites above you might also like to undertake the following free course 'Designing space for dementia care', which is part of the OpenLearn website materials: www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/social-care/designing-space-dementia-care/content-section-0

Part B: Having spent time reading the information consider how your approach to working with a person who has the condition might now be different. For example, would you communicate in a different way? Do you think you would have a greater insight to the types of difficulties the person would be experiencing? Is there anything from your reading that has particularly surprised you?

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Part A: If you decide to focus on Autistic Spectrum Disorder visit the National Autistic Society website (www.autism.org.uk/) and read over the information contained under the following tabs:

- About Autism – What is autism?
 - Autism
 - Asperger syndrome
 -
- About Autism – Communication
 - Communicating, interacting
- About Autism – Behaviour

- Behaviour: Top tips

- About Autism – Strategies and Approaches
 - SPELL
 - Social Stories

In addition, you may wish to undertake the following OpenLearn unit which is available free of charge – The Autistic Spectrum: From theory to practice.

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/psychology/the-autistic-spectrum-theory-practice/content-section-0>

Part B: Having spent time reading the information consider how your approach to working with a person who has the condition might now be different. For example, would you communicate in a different way? Do you think you would have a greater insight to the types of difficulties the person would be experiencing? Is there anything from your reading that has particularly surprised you?