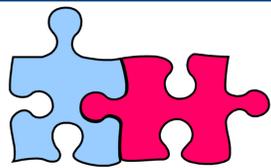




Putting the Pieces Together

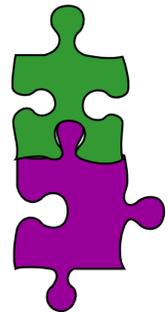
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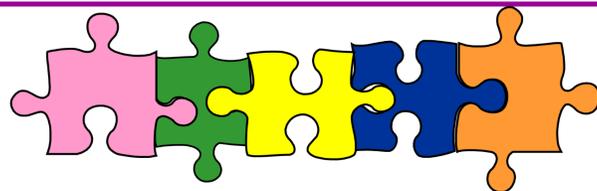
Objectives: Articulate a strategy for the introduction of course concepts. Apply the principles of working a jigsaw puzzle to the delivery of course content.

Purpose: This activity introduced many concepts essential to nursing research and demonstrated how those concepts fit together using critical thinking to generate evidence-based practice.

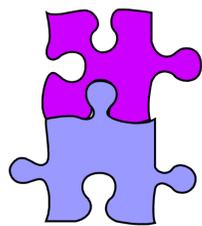


Background/ Significance: The development of critical thinking skills is an essential component of nursing education and practice. Nursing students and novice nurses need to integrate several types of information so they realize the total picture while providing holistic care for individuals, families, and populations. Several authors have addressed how creative strategies promote or enhance critical thinking. Different arenas of nursing practice and other health care disciplines have implemented these strategies. Critical thinking develops over time through a variety of experiences and prepares nursing students and novice nurses for potential situations encountered in health care settings.

Setting: A school of nursing at a university.



Sample: A convenience sample of 49 nursing students.

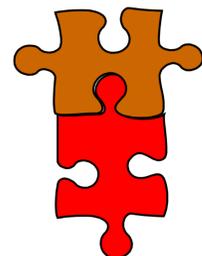


Methodology/Procedure: The instructor wrote concepts on the back of jigsaw puzzle pieces and numbered them. The instructor gave each student several puzzle pieces and students said what the concepts were. Students worked the puzzle upside down in numerical order. After completion, students mentioned principles involved in working the puzzle. One student turned the puzzle over so all could see the big picture. The instructor emphasized how working a puzzle is similar to the development of evidence-based practice.

Results/Outcomes: Results indicated that students applied principles for working a jigsaw puzzle to learning about evidence-based practice. The principles included teamwork/collaboration, communication, planning, time management, need for resources, development of knowledge, promotion of problem-solving techniques and positive outcomes, the need for all pieces, the view of the bigger picture, and evaluation of outcomes.



Discussion/Conclusions: Principles that apply to working a jigsaw puzzle are relevant for the development of evidence-based practice. This activity is recommended for use in a variety of courses (pediatrics, fundamentals), conditions (cardiovascular disorders), or processes (workplace safety).



Implications: Putting the pieces together and seeing the big picture enhances critical thinking skills. Creative strategies like this move nursing students and novice nurses to a greater level of competence and the use of higher order thinking skills. These activities promote positive outcomes for clients, health care teams, and health care systems.