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“No we can’t use less words! Or can we?” Reflections on a journey into e-learning

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"No we can't use less words! Or can we?" Reflections on a journey into e-learning

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Dominic King – SCIE

University of Reading | US University of Sussex | University of Gloucestershire | social care institute for excellence scie

Outline of paper

- What is an e-learning object?
- Our task – to produce a set of 10 e-learning objects on communication skills in social work/social care within one year (Sept 07 – Sept 08)
- Composition of team
- Interesting challenges
- What we have learned

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E-learning objects are…

- A series of discrete interactive learning resources on a particular theme.
- These can be studied in various ways e.g. individually by learners or as part of class based learning.
- E-learning objects can be accessed directly from the web, or downloaded to a university's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and accessed from there.
- Each e-learning object has to be stand alone. No knowledge of previous (or future) e-learning objects in the series can be assumed.

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Examples of Screen Types

- Photos
- Talking heads
- Video
- Audio
- Quizzes
- Activities e.g. reflective exercises
- Line drawings / illustrations
- Interactive pictures
- Pop up information
- Downloads

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Our Task – 10 e-learning objects

1. Overview of communication skills in social work
2. Forming and maintaining relationships with service users, carers, professionals and others
3. Providing information and explaining
4. Gathering Information
5. Barriers to communication
6. Particular communication needs
7. Communicating in challenging situations
8. Using play and the creative arts to communicate with children and young people
9. Communication through action
10. Communication across social and cultural differences

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Our team

- Dominic King – SCIE
- Michelle Lefevre – University of Sussex
- Sally Richards – University of Reading
- Pamela Trevithick – University of Gloucestershire
- Cimex (a digital media agency)

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Challenges

- Using helpful imagery
- Using imagery to drive content
- Addressing complexity

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Challenges

Using helpful imagery

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Challenges

Using imagery to drive content

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Challenges

Addressing complexity

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Conclusion – learning from creating e-learning objects

- What we have learnt from the process
- Taking that learning into our teaching

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