



USING BLACKBOARD IN UNDERGRADUATE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY EDUCATION



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Information technology is an important part of contemporary health service delivery and professional practice (Kenny 2002)



Uses of Black Board within the Department of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, NUI Galway

Posting class notes / Communicating through posted announcements / Supporting students during clinical placements / Facilitating assessment & evaluation

Considerations

- Heterogeneous student population
- Technology not seen as in keeping with the ethos of caring (Gadow, 1984; Sandelowski, 1988 in Little, 2000)
- Variable interest and ability in utilising computers
- Accessing the internet in clinical placements
- Staff expertise

Benefits

- Promotes student engagement (Kenny 2002)
- “...allows for synchronous real-time activities...and asynchronous, delayed, activities..” (Servonsky et al. 2005:132)
- Offers flexibility in teaching and learning (Kenny 2002)
- Gives the student a sense of control over their learning (Gibbon & Currie, 2007)
- Promotes greater confidence in the use of computers (Kenny 2002)
- Can help in closing the ‘theory/practice gap’
- Offers a convenient way of learning (Sit et al. 2005)
- Promotes student empowerment (Gibbon & Curie 2007)
- Helps to maintain communication with college lecturers

References

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