

Essential Skills Wales

Communication

Portfolio assessment guidance

Defining Complexity

Summary:

The mandatory terms in the Essential Skills Wales Standards state that, 'Complex subjects or materials deal with abstract or sensitive issues and lines of enquiry that depend on clear reasoning which may not be immediately clear. The subject matter must have several strands and must be challenging to the candidate in terms of the ideas it presents. Specialist vocabulary and complicated sentence structures may be used.' However, at Level 2 learners are required to use complex sentences in their writing. It is therefore possible to treat a simple subject in a complex way. It does not have to be a complex subject.

Examples:

An example of a simple subject, treated in a simple way.

The subject 'Disposing of waste' had been handled in a simple way. Using bullet points and short sentences

Disposing of waste

Care workers need to ensure that waste is disposed of correctly. This is achieved by colour coding waste.

- Yellow bag: used dressings and incontinence pads
- Yellow box: needles and other sharps
- Red bag: soiled linen

Yellow bags and boxes go in the clinical waste bin outside the home. Red bags disintegrate in the wash.

An example of a simple subject, treated in a complex way.

The subject 'Disposing of waste' had been handled in a complex way with the use of complex sentences

Disposing of waste in a residential home

Care workers need to ensure that waste is disposed of correctly and this is achieved by colour coding waste.

Clinical waste- such as used dressings and incontinence pads must be placed in a yellow bag and they must then be clearly labelled. The bag is then placed in the clinical waste bin outside of the residential home; these bins are then taken away regularly and the contents are incinerated.

Sharps- such as needles and syringes must be placed in a yellow box and sealed; these do not go into a yellow bag because they could go through the plastic bag and penetrate someone's skin leading to infection. The yellow boxes are then placed in a clinical waste bin outside the residential home and, they too, will be incinerated.

Soiled linen- such as bedding and clothing must be placed in a red bag and taken to the laundry room. Red bags must be used when a service user has MRSA, or any other infectious disease, their contaminated bed linen and clothing must be placed in a red bag which disintegrates when it is put in to wash.