# Practice Education: Bringing Theory into Practice

During our event on 17th October 2018 we asked our delegates:

**“When you have a student on placement, what tools, exercises etc. do you use to help them understand how to relate theory to practice?”**

Here are their ideas:

* ‘KIT’ Stick man from The Theory Circle tool. For more information see: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02615470601141409>
* Case scenarios from past or current cases and asking students to identify what theories are linked to the case, and how this relates to legislation and the PCF.
* Reflective logs, blogs, diaries etc.
* Asking the student to undertake independent study or self-directed research e.g. finding an article themselves on a particular theory and working out how this applies on placement, or researching case law
* Use of supervision – either by sharing resources, discussing examples of how theory can be applied in practice, or asking for a brief description and any evidence that they have used a particular theory
* The MANDELA model of practice learning - to begin understanding the use of self within practice, difference in skills, knowledge and experience. For more information see: <http://journals.whitingbirch.net/index.php/JPTS/article/download/264/282>
* Social Work Theory Cards - by Siobhan Maclean, published by Kirwin Maclean Associates (ISBN-13 978-1912130009)
* Mapping cases
* ‘Theory and Practice: A Straightforward Guide for Social Work Students’ by Siobhan Maclean and Rob Harrison, published by Kirwin Maclean Associates (ISBN-13: 978-1903575956)
* Providing the student with documentation which breaks down a lot of the relevant theories to the role
* Community Care Inform – this is a subscription website available for Children’s Social Workers: <https://www.ccinform.co.uk/> and Adults’ Social Workers: <https://adults.ccinform.co.uk/>
* Grow-wise Child Development Programme – this resource provides frontline practitioners with an accessible, well-researched and practice-based training programme covering all aspects of child development from conception through to 19 years of age: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/grow-wise>
* Assessment Triangle – asking the student to look at the needs of a service user and then linking these needs to the triangle, which helps them to apply the most appropriate theory to their practice.
* Twitter
* Visual prompts
* ‘Social Work Theory – Your critical friend’ app by Kirwin Maclean Associates available here: <https://siobhanmaclean.co.uk/app-overview>
* Resources from previous training events
* Spider diagrams – asking the student to brainstorm on a particular case to summarise how a theory applies to the situation
* Signs of Safety model - <https://www.signsofsafety.net/>
* ‘Social Work Theory and Methods: The Essentials’ by Neil Thompson, published by Routledge (ISBN-13978-1138629783)
* Reflective Practice Cards: Prompt cards for social workers – by Siobhan Maclean, published by Kirwin Maclean Associates (ISBN-13 978-1903575994)
* ‘Developing a Practice Learning Curriculum: A Guide for Practice Educators’ by Siobhan Maclean and Bridget Caffrey, published by Kirwin Maclean Associates (ISBN-13 978-1903575901)
* ‘Blob tree’ reflective tool - <https://www.blobtree.com/> asking the student where they are on the ladder of learning
* Eco-map – for more information see <http://www.socialworkerstoolbox.com/ecomap-activity/>