How to create an enriched environment of learning in care homes that brings out the best in everyone

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- Discovering and celebrating opportunities for learning.
- Exploring how this learning comes about.
- Creating approaches together that enhance care homes as enriched learning environments.
A student nurse is due to start a placement in the care home you work in. They are wondering what opportunities for learning there will be. How would you answer?
Relationship centred care
Learning about human connection through everyday moments of human connection
Learning about human connection

Helping people to connect, the whole system, it’s entirety - connect with other staff, residents, staff, and connect that learning [Participant - Envision event]

A unique learning opportunity in care homes, is how to approach and get to know people [Staff Nurse]
Noticing for learning
You’ve got them up and dressed and you’re walking along and they reach out their arm for you, …… to support them and it shows that trust I think, as you’re building a rapport with them and I think that shows, right they’re trusting me to do this, I’m obviously doing this correctly, so that’s one hint…. their body language, ‘right I think that was OK for them, judging by their body language and if they’re talking to me’ [Student Nurse].
Learning together: It’s all about we
It’s all about we

People were learning from everybody, they were learning from different staff members, they were learning from the residents …. I thought it was a lovely learning environment, because people weren’t defensive, about who they were learning from, they were appreciating gaining the skills and knowledge and it was cross pollinated [Participant – Envision event].

Learning in a care home is about learning together where everyone is involved and we are one expert among many. We can sometimes forget to ask. It has been so good having a relative at our table we have learnt so much from her [Facilitator notes Envision event]
That day was good because I hadn’t realised how much that particular resident liked dominoes. I had been a bit unsure how to play dominoes and worried about my dyscalculia but it actually was quite easy and quite enjoyable. I did learn from her because she would speak out loud what the next piece needed to be, she would say ‘a 6 or a 4’ and then I would look and see what it had, and it helped me rather than have to count up the dots myself, so it was a good tip that she gave me, so yeah it was fun. When I went home that night, my daughter came home from school with a set of dominoes and I was so pleased I was able to play with her. [Carer].
Prompt questions to explore stories

• What is there to celebrate in this story?
• Having read this story, what are you wondering about in relation to learning in care homes?
• What stories could you share about learning in care homes and who might you share these stories with?