LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
Virtual Learning Tools
Our online learning tools replicate real practice in virtual locations, enabling users to develop real life skills and reflect on experiences.

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Safeguarding Children

Developed in partnership with Toolwire, this tool is designed for pre-qualifying and newly qualified social work students in their Assessed and Supported Year in Practice. In the tool, the learner plays the part of a newly qualified Social Worker, under the supervision of their line manager. Learners interact with real life characters as they undertake observations and complete reports, working in collaboration with parents and children and with other members of the multidisciplinary team in child safeguarding practice.

The learner will experience an authentic and engaging learning environment that combines sound pedagogical principles with innovative technologies. This important tool enhances the use of virtual and physical learning spaces, and early impact analysis suggests it improves student learning.

This tool has been piloted with one hundred pre-qualified Social Work students, with overwhelmingly positive results. Students reported not only enjoyment in using it, but also increased levels of contextual understanding, knowledge and skills for child protection.

Feedback includes:
'The programme gives you lots of resources and references which can help you complete the exercises, and will help with further learning/assignments'

'The exercise of visiting the home is useful as it makes you think about the purpose of home visits and the range of information you can get, both from asking questions, from observing and from doing the real practical things of looking round the house – in particular how you can make this less intrusive.'

'Overall I really like it as a learning tool. It feels 'real' and I think it is a gentle and safe way of preparing us to go into people's homes and work meaningfully with them'

'I found the tool really interesting and enjoyable to do, it gave a great insight into hands on practice and the challenges and situations Social Workers can face. I liked how interactive it was and the feedback from the supervisor was very helpful.'

Key Features
- Experiential learning
- Opportunity for learners to be involved in the construction of their own knowledge
- Frequent formative feedback from authentic interactions with colleagues and other professionals (eg after the visit to the home to assess the mother and child, the student fills in an assessment form which replicates forms they would use in practice)
- Guidance and feedback from a supervisor within the tool
- Built-in remediation loops
- Ability to view key documents in the learning context
- Reflective learning is embedded throughout

Learning Outcomes
- To apply key legal and policy principles of safeguarding children
- To demonstrate an understanding assessment and risk mapping with families and children
- To demonstrate an understanding of partnership working and the roles of other agencies in the safeguarding process
- To demonstrate an understanding of the skills for communicating with children and the importance of communication in the safeguarding process.

Price
The cost per individual learner is £125. For groups of learners or bespoke package prices please contact us at **virtuallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk**

For more information please visit: **www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/virtuallearning** or email **virtuallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk**