

Chapter 11

FIXING FIELDWORK PROBLEMS

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Fieldwork is just about every student's favorite part of occupational therapy school. It is a time to apply things learned in the classroom, a time to interact with practicing therapists, and a time to work with "real" clients. Students look forward to this hands-on learning time with great anticipation. After all, this is what you are training for.

The last thing anybody wants to think about during this time is a fieldwork problem. But, unfortunately, problems can occur. The problem could be a personality issue between the student and the fieldwork educator; it could be that the student, for whatever reason, is not prepared for a particular type of experience; or a fieldwork educator is not adequately prepared for a student.

By the end of this chapter, you will do the following:

- Identify and list personal strengths and growth areas for clinical skills and professional behaviors.
- Review and understand how to deal with common fieldwork problems.
- Understand the characteristics of an effective student versus a challenging student.
- Understand the purpose of and how to use the "Tools for Fieldwork Success" in the fieldwork setting.