

# Creating Spaces for Relational Reflexivity in Social Care Education

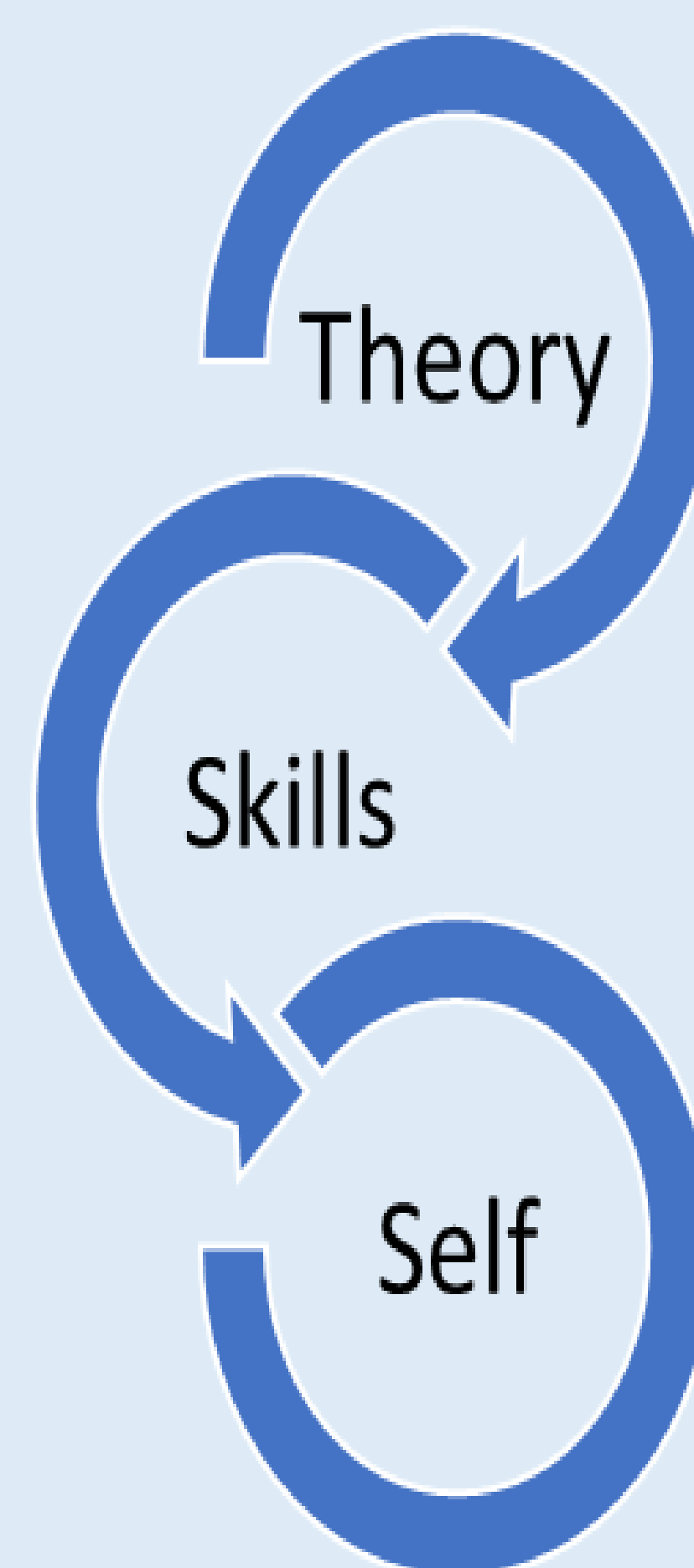
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## Background

*Is it important that we reflect on ourselves before we work with others?*

A lot of time in social care education currently is devoted to acquiring skills and understanding theory. However, the same opportunities are not present for students to reflect on themselves (Lyons, 2013).



*"I don't think there is enough of it (reflexive practice) incorporated (in social care education) ...You're expected to be an advocate for your client, for people in crisis or need, but if you haven't, while we're training...if we're not reflecting, looking back at ourselves before we started this part, how do we encourage other people to do what we have not" (Third Year, Social Care Student).*

## Aim

This research sets out to explore how social care training might embrace more relationally reflexive learning processes within existing course provision, to assist students for practice in social care contexts.

## **Possible Impact on Practice?**

- More Empathy
- Better Quality of Care
- Less Burnout



## Method of Inquiry:

### Layering to add Richness

The research will be conducted through use of reflexive learning groups with social care students preparing to go on their practice placement.

Reflexive Inquiry will be the method of inquiry utilised which will involve *layering* of the research material:  
-video reviews of the group meetings  
-use of feedback sheets  
-reflexive journals (students and lecturer)

I will use reflexive writing (Kebbe, 2016; Richardson, 1994) as a way of making sense of the research material assisting me to be a *reflexive researcher* from within the process with students.

## References

Kebbe, Lisen. (2016). Writing Essays as Dialogical Inquiry. In Gail Simon and Alex Chard (Eds.), *Systemic Inquiry Innovations in Reflexive Practice Research*. Farnhill: Everything is Connected Press.

Lyons, Denise (2013). Learn about your "self" before you work with others. In Perry Share and Kevin Lalor, (Eds.), *Applied Social Care* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Dublin: Gill and Macmillan.

Richardson, Laurel. (1994). *Writing as a Method of Inquiry*. London: Sage.

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