



PRACTICUM TEACHING

*Everything you need to complete
basic teaching in the state-required
“Core Competencies for a Direct Service Worker”*

Quality of Life Institute
Revised January 2006

The Mission of Globe Star

“to mentor individuals with disabilities in achieving a quality of life that fosters interdependency within their own community, building companionship and formulating a sense of community.”

The Vision of Globe Star

The vision of Globe Star was inspired by an actual sea captain named Martin Creamer, who accomplished two transatlantic crossings without instruments aboard his ship, *the Globe Star*. Captain Creamer recognized that a vision could only come true if it comes from the heart.

All Aboard!

Dear New Crewmember:

Welcome to Globe Star, a truly different service provider. While other agencies may work primarily to control behaviors, we aim to enhance the lives of the Individuals we serve. It is more important to focus on *who* the Individual is than *what* he/she does.

Over the coming days and weeks, we will be helping you to realize your own abilities to enhance the quality of life of those Individuals we serve. This teaching process begins with the Practicum. We'll be “throwing you in the deep end” by starting you out in direct contact with our Individuals and their Caregivers. During this time, you'll see firsthand what is expected of you. It should be a time of self-reflection: *How can you use your own gifts to be a teacher and role model for others?*

During the Practicum, you'll also be learning the basics of caregiving, the topics that the State of Indiana has decided are the core competencies that all caregivers should master. That's where this book comes in.

Once you've completed the Practicum, you'll continue the teaching process in the office. At this time, you'll learn more about Gentle Teaching (the philosophy, or way of life, on which Globe Star was founded) and Globe Star's Quality of Life Model (our method for applying Gentle Teaching to the residential setting). But more on that later. In the meantime, on to the Practicum...

Thank you for joining Globe Star. We're glad to have you on board.

Sincerely, The Crewmembers of Globe Star

The Practicum

During the course of the three-day practicum, your navigator (the mentor or the caregiver-on-duty) will help you through the following Core Competency topics. The cover page of each topic details what must be done and when it may occur. It is your responsibility to show an interest in learning by pacing yourself through the Practicum. If there is some free time, choose a topic and start working on it. The order isn't essential, but the topics are ordered in a logical order. Be flexible, and be sure to progress through all the topics. There are no quizzes along the way, but you will take a Practicum Exam at the office at the end of the Practicum. All of the information you need for this Exam is included in this book.

If you ever are unsure of what is expected of you, please ask. And good luck!

Competency	What will I learn?
Rights and Responsibilities	How to provide humane care to the Individuals and protect them from harm
Communication	How to be aware of our interactions with others
Medication Administration	How to handle medication and give it to the Individual
Emergency Management	How to react during an emergency
Incident Reporting	How to notify the authorities of events that endanger the Individual's health and safety
Infection Control	How to prevent the spread of disease
Person Centered Planning (PCP)	The process by which Individuals' goals are determined
Protocols	How information is stored in the Individual's home
ISP Teaching	How to tend to an Individual's specific needs, treatments, and interventions