ANSWER TO WEEK 5 ACTIVITY 3

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ENGLISH: SKILLS FOR LEARNING

Week 5: Linking ideas

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Topic 1 carers/care
Topic 2 differences
Topic 3 public
Topic 4 private
Topic 5 hospital
Topic 6 residential
Topic 7 domestic

The ability to determine the differences between public and private spaces is therefore essential for those who wish to be skilled and effective carers as it affects the quality of their work in all care contexts. This essay will consider the differences between public and private spaces and how these can affect the behaviour of both carers and those receiving care in hospital, residential and private homes.

Private and public spaces differ greatly.

To provide good care in a mostly public space, such as the hospital environment, factors such as safety and the efficiency of the ward should be seen as paramount; however, it is also important that carers safeguard patients’ needs.

In the residential care setting too, it is important that staff recognise the differences between public and private spaces.

In a good residential home, the staff will acknowledge the residents’ wishes to control their private space.

The story is very different in poorly run residential homes.

It would seem that those who receive care at home should be in a stronger position to maintain their autonomy, but even here carers must be aware that their behaviour can change this situation considerably.

A good home carer will always respect the wishes of the client and show them that their right to privacy is valued.

To conclude, whether they work in hospitals, residential homes or patients homes, carers must be sensitive to the different characteristics of private and public spaces. This sensitivity helps to carefully balance, on the one hand, patients’ need to privacy, dignity and control over their lives and, on the other, the carers’ need to guarantee safety and effective care. Evidence shows that this approach
ultimately affects *quality of care* as patients will appreciate the security provided by the *care* context but at the same time benefit from having at least some autonomy and some control over their *private* spaces. This is likely to increase patients’ well-being and favour the recovery process.