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10 tips on how to be a good supervisor

1. Ask the student: what does a good supervisor mean for them and what does a good PhD student mean for you and then plan the tutorial arrangements around this. Although you may think you know more than the student, this can be a useful point of departure and discovery with some students being very self-aware about their learning styles and needs. This is also a way of exploring learning differences and how to accommodate these without the student feeling they are identified as a special case in need of adjustments. All PhD students are special and all need adjustments as each student and project is unique.
2. Unsupervision: not every meeting needs to be a tutorial in an office space, lasting an hour. A coffee chat, library meeting, or walk and talk are all ways of creating dialogue around and about the research
3. Group Practices, Hunches, Dialogues (PHD): supervision doesn't need to be solo and can feel isolating. As a supervisor, your students have at least one thing in common as they are supervised by you. Your research interests will also create links between the students which you can map together to create connections and build community. I run occasional meetings identified as Practices, Hunches, Dialogues for my practice-based students to share approaches. This could become an "away day"
4. Time and Space: define and observe boundaries; identify whether your student(s) have preferences for times of day or environment to optimise their learning. Are they am or pm? Related considerations may involve child care, sensory preferences or xxx processing time (e.g in neurodivergent students). It is equally important for supervisors to identify parameters; telling a student "this is my lunch break" is ok
5. What is your researcher style? Analyse in terms of time management, literature review and methodology. Then trouble shoot to position the student in relation to this
6. Metaphors positioning exercise: If your thesis was a colour/animal/ shape/food/ furniture/ clothing etc, what would it be and why?
7. Do a thesis hack each year: why is it imp, what is it about, who s it fr, HOW, when will you it , where
8. creative research whatever the topic : think beyond the box...
- 9: Viva prep: Rehearse (prepare for past/resent/future question,, Revise, (know your thesi) Reflect (thinking beyond)
- 10 Keep it in perspective as a means to an end or ot