

Karl Hassan

Submission for peer view – Discovery Mindset

Caring for my cousin with Down syndrome has catalysed a profound shift in my approach to self-directed learning, fostering a curiosity-driven mindset that has enriched my life in countless ways. As I sought to better understand his condition and provide the support he needed, I embarked on a journey of exploration, research, and self-education that has deepened my appreciation for the power of knowledge and curiosity.

One of the most striking aspects of this transformation has been the insatiable curiosity that has been ignited within me. In my quest to support my cousin effectively, I delved into books, articles, and online resources to learn more about Down syndrome. This initial foray into the subject matter quickly evolved into a passionate pursuit of knowledge that extended far beyond the confines of his condition.

My newfound curiosity has not been limited to the theoretical aspects of Down syndrome. I actively sought out opportunities to engage with individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and experts in the field. These interactions provided me with invaluable insights and personal stories that enriched my understanding and empathy. This curiosity-driven approach has not only broadened my knowledge but also deepened my connections with the Down syndrome community.

In addition to acquiring a more profound understanding of Down syndrome, this curiosity-driven approach to learning has instilled in me a lifelong love of learning itself. I've come to embrace the idea that knowledge is not static but constantly evolving, and I've developed the skills to navigate the vast sea of information available in today's digital age. This mindset has spilled over into all areas of my life, from pursuing new hobbies to approaching challenges at work with a more inquisitive spirit.

In conclusion, my journey of learning to support my cousin with Down syndrome has ignited a curiosity-driven approach to self-directed learning. This mindset has led me to explore a wide array of subjects, deepened my understanding of Down syndrome, and instilled a passion for continuous learning. It serves as a reminder that curiosity is a powerful force for personal growth and transformation, capable of enriching not only our minds but also our lives.

Feedback from peer

1. Are the experiences discussed clearly linked to the attribute?

No. The chosen attribute is discovery mindset and this piece talks about being curiosity driven.

2. Is the submission more reflective (focused on own development) than descriptive (listing achievements)?

No. The final paragraph describes how the writer has changed because of this experience but it is not clear how they have developed. There is not enough detail of why and how they changed their mindset. For example, the first paragraph is very generic and broad which makes it hard as a reader to see what impacted them the most. How was your life enriched? What was the profound impact nursing your nephew had? You mention that reading has extended your curiosity but how and what have you learnt from this?

3. Does the submission discuss changes in thinking and behaviour as a result of experiences?

Yes. This submission describes well how the writer's way of thinking has changed however some of the connections between the experience and what they have learnt is hard to see. For example, it is mentioned that the new mindset has spilled over into other areas however there is no detail in how they his change of mindset has impacted these areas.

4. Does the submission reflect on the changes in thinking and behaviour as a result of experiences?

This is hard to comment on as the specific changes in behaviour and thinking are difficult to identify. There aren't enough actual examples within the piece to say for certain.

Please list strengths of the piece

This submissions topic of supporting their nephew is very impactful.

5. Please provide any advice that would be useful to the Participant, e.g. where more reflection could be added

More reflection could be added throughout. For example, paragraph two could focus less on describing how the knowledge was acquired and give more details on how the pursuit of knowledge has changed the way the writer acts or learns. It could be easier to understand if the writer narrows some of their statements, for example where they talk about the impact a change of mindset has had. The language used is generally quite vague which does make it difficult to link exactly what behaviours and experiences impacted the changes of thinking. It's also difficult to understand what the writer has changed.