If the schools could teach students how to be entry level therapists, they wouldn’t need the fieldwork placement.

The reason for fieldwork is to pull it all together.
Why do students struggle?

- Maturity level
- Bumpy learning curve
- Poor fit between student and site/supervisor
- Actually incompetent
- Other reasons?
How Do We Deal with It?

- Structure and Clear expectations are the best prevention
- Early recognition – weeks 3 through 5 are critical
- Analyze why, what is not working
Ability Problems

- Learning style differences
- Time management or focus issues
- Specific skill deficits
- Characteristics of this setting
- Communication Skills
Attitude Problems

- Immaturity
- Unmet expectations on either side
- Relationship Clash
- Attitude!

- The remedy must match the problem
Relationship Styles

- Relationships, Harmonizing
- Reflective, Preserving, Theory Building
- Pragmatic, Directive
- Interpreting Feelings, Achieving Perfection
The 3 stages of Student Growth

- Stability/Stagnation
- Confusion
- Integration

- Gennifer Young, OTR  Wyoming State Hospital
The Remediation Plan

- Always written
- Ideally before the midterm,
- Input/Discussion with School’s CEC
- Clearly identifies what you need to see
- Call on other resources, don’t just vent
- Involve the student
Education is Different than Treatment

- Do structure learning activities to improve results
- Don’t modify expectations to match student’s ability
- Structured, Caring Feedback is Key
Strategic Feedback

- The behavior I want to change –
- The negative consequences of the behavior –
- How I felt about the behavior –
- What I want done for remediation –

- Therapist as Supervisor and Coach by Gary A. Morse
Summary

- It is not just you
- The students have a responsibility, too
- The school makes the final decision about the student, your decision is about this placement
- Confidentiality is required