**What did I learn this introduction week?**

On Tuesday September 28, 2021 was my first day of the Apprentice Program at Encora. What an exciting and busy times I’m going to be through this time. A place full of learning and possibilities, you don’t know where to start.

I did not imagine all the knowledge and confidence I could have in one simple week. I mean confidence because all the people are so nice and kind, every time is less the shame I have to ask anything, and that’s a good think and the first learning I have from all Encora, communication is key. The less doubts you have, the better. Sometimes you feel anxious or you feel shame to ask anything because your inner voice says to you “you are going to sound so dumb to everyone”, but no, there’s all the trust to do it.

Going back to the communication, I learned effective ways to communicate with team mates or also with people in general. For example, we are using Scrum methodology, I have had used scrum methodology before in other companies, but I feel it more efficient this time, it is concrete and organized, and people are always looking if you have any trouble to help you.

Another good thing I have been thinking lately, is about habits. There is something that is stick in my head like glue, “habits can make success”. And it’s totally true. You need good habits to make the right things. Habits helps to be healthy and happy. I’m going to take me as an example, this month I propose myself to get up earlier from bed and take a walk in the morning. I started waking up at 8 am, then at 7 am, then at 6 am, and finally, this week I have been getting up from bed at 5 am to take an hour and half hour walk in the morning. Do I think this is a good habit? Yes. Because I feel motivated, I feel more energized at work, I feel productive and I love it so much. There’s another version of this in my past work, I got up from the bed like 20 minutes before the starting hour, I felt so tired all the time and with zero motivation. So, habits and change are so good, and they can be hard at first, but the thing is going step by step with patience and consistency, at the end, it’s sure you can make it.

There’s something else interesting about the habits, is you do what you think you are. For me, it means in believe in yourself and the things you do or you have to do to make your wishes or necessities true. Also, I think it means to trust the process, because maybe somedays feels like you didn’t do anything at all, but at the end you actually did something important. So, every step in the process is important and significative.

I understood that feedback is not always bad. Maybe when someone thinks about getting some feedback is a little bit scary, you can think “Oh god, I ruined it”, “There’s going to be bad things”. And it’s not it at all. Feedback is a good think, it helps you to grow up as a person or as an employee. Feedback needs to be done someday, if you think you are perfect, the true is nobody is. It is helpful, is not a weapon against you, and it needs to be always respectful.

What comes with the feedback? Learning. We always need to be learning, if we want to improve ourselves, be better, make better choices or whatever you need, improve is necessary. I think there is always something new to learn, not only in our career, about ourselves too. We need to be learning constantly, investigating and improving.

I have been speaking more about the personal, psychological or emotional learning during this first week. Now I want to move into the career or work learning.

Being an apprentice is a significant step in my life, and something I’m proud of. I want to give my best and I hope I can make it to stay. But also, I’m not going to lie, it’s a little bit scary to don’t make or accomplish the expectations, I’m scared to fail in something. But at the same time, I feel calm, because the apprentice pattern talk helped me to relax a bit. I learned that anyone in anytime has been apprentice and is a normal step, is an opportunity to empty the cup and try to learn new things, because you can’t be always using the same as you learned in high school, for example. It is the perfect time to search what you like, to experiment, to find what I want for my career.

There’s something that hit me: “try to be the worst one”, at first, I said “what?”, but then I realized it’s true. Because in this way, you can always learn something new from another person, and that’s cool, and if you are the best one on your team, that’s time to move on, and that’s cool too! We are progressing then!

As I said, I’m of course afraid to fail. But at the same time, failure is part of all the knowledge, I need to fail to get it and be better. There’s need to practice, expand our knowledge, we need to be enthusiastic, we need to learn to learn and find what’s better for you. I think is going to be hard, and it’s going to be tired, but totally worth it.

So, being an apprentice is important and a big step, we need to take it well. Learning and failing is part of everything to be a good developer and to be a good human being too. Everything we need is keep learning about everything and make value in changes.

Something likely to communication is being present at work. This means to do not be invisible, to being always asking any doubt, to connect with our team mates, because I think is uncomfortable to only work as a team, you need to have a connection with team, you need to talk a little bit too to make the work done more efficiently and without any trouble.

Something also important is organization, and that’s all of it, I think. Make all your schedule for work and respect it, try to accomplish all your task during that time, if you start not respecting your work schedule everything is going to be harder to do, in my opinion. That’s why organization is also a key in work and real life in general, it is important because maintains you healthy in your work and personal life.

Maybe sometimes we don’t see the importance in security, we don’t see that hacking is maybe so easy, and that maybe the easy it is to the hackers it’s because of our fault. I’m part of these people lol, I noticed I have not so good practices about security. Like Marco said, you should be in panic to those attacks, and yes, I was actually panicked after the IT meeting. I didn’t remember how easy can be to be hacked. There are different types of attacks, and there’s even one about not technology at all! It is just social engineering, people cheating you to recover some information, so crazy. I learned that I need to be more aware about my security because there’s a lot of danger everywhere, there are web browsers that are malicious, sometimes we download things we don’t know, there are bad links or attachments, there are people who do phishing and people who connect in our modems and can listen everything, everything is so interesting and terrifying. I really do want and need to read more about this.

For last but not least, I learned a little more about ethics in general, what we should and shouldn’t do in work and in day by day everywhere.

In conclusion and about Encora, I learned how the company works, and it is a really amazing place, the people here are awesome. I’m knowing all the material you can give us, and thank you so much for that, I think it makes us feel special in some way, not only a bunch of kids and that’s it. There’s a lot of material to read and learn, like books, articles, trainings, some courses, you do not know where to begin. I really appreciated that, I’m very excited to be here and learn so many ways possible.

Nayeli Alejandra Beckham Martinez