

2a1

Community Mapping

Do

Create a list of opportunities in the local community.

Story

Amy has a baby and is feeling isolated. She has decided that she would like to meet other mothers with babies. Amy then decided to find out about the local community with assistance from her support worker.

Dave said that he wanted to learn to use a computer to improve his employability.

Together with his support worker, Dave looked in the phone book to locate a class. After rehearsing the call, Dave used the phone himself to ask for a prospectus.

One team leader got his whole team to go out on the same day and investigate the resources in the community and share their findings. (*Beard 1992, p113*) describes how she offered information about philately societies to someone interested in stamp collecting.

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Hints & Hazards

Look in the local newspaper, ask at the library and talk to people who know the area well. Pass on what you learn via posters, stories, booklets or talking.

If the person is involved in the search, she might find other areas of interest along the way, and will become more skilled in researching local groups herself. Keep listening to what the person says – she may have particular travel routes, preferred places, or other preferences that emerge during the mapping process.

A worker with a similar lifestyle may have useful knowledge. If directories are out of date or inaccurate, mapping can be demoralising.

Many centres have local information available on events and activities. Collecting and collating data can become so time consuming that it replaces all other strategies.

Some people like to look at posters and collect information from the library. Others get on better by opening conversations with strangers about what is available in the community.