

2a3

Visit Places

Do

Visit the community place one or more times to decide which is the best place or to become familiar with the physical setting.

Story

The Nottingham Museums and Art Galleries Outreach Team was involved in a programme of arranged visits. A group from a number of different day centres took part in an organised programme of activities including visits to various museums. One people were aware

of the museums and had visited in supported groups, other strategies were used to support people to visit independently. Some have been doing this. (*Dodd & Sandell 2001*)

Sometimes Tariq finds new places and people overwhelming so before he started going to religious services he visited the Temple at quiet times so he could look around and get used to the people there.

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Visit Places

Hints & Hazards

Repeated visits to the same place may help the person feel safe there, whilst new places can be interesting. This is a 'no commitments', visit that avoids any demands for further involvement. Have patience and use your skill to help the person gain confidence to continue independently. Assess the extent to which the place carries a special meaning for the person – consider using a neutral environment rather than one with connotations of power or fear. Carry out a detailed analysis of the skills utilised to engage with the setting. (see 2b2 'Ecological Inventory').

Watch out for how travel arrangements and the setting itself change from hour to hour, day to day, week to week. Plan the visit for the 'right' time in this rhythm. People who find first encounters difficult may feel ill at ease everywhere on the first visit, but settling in well eventually.