

2b1

Understanding One Place

Do

Find out about the different opportunities available in the specific setting in different rooms, days and times.

Story

'If an individual is being supported to attend a swimming club, or other similar club or activity, and there are scarce staffing/support resources, then initially attending under-used sessions can be advantageous. In such a situation more support may be available from instructors, and in a more relaxed setting others may be more willing to become involved.' *(Gilbert 1993, p100)*

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Hints & Hazards

A single setting can conceal a number of different possible settings. For example, some rooms may be crowded and busy, while others are quiet and relaxed – so check out the rhythms of the setting. Conversely, settings with the same name can vary enormously, such as churches where one is sedate and reflective while another is animated and noisy. Simply looking at a different time of day or day of the week can create an entirely different impression. What are your first impressions? Is it a single group or many disparate groups? Are people friendly and can you ask for information or help? Is

there a place to relax? Do the people inside reflect the community outside? Are users of the building respected and trusted? Are their gifts valued and harnessed?

Check out the mission of this agency as this may provide a useful link to the inclusion effort. Count the 'niches' – the number of different roles that people take up in this setting. For example, the swimming pool offers opportunities to lifeguards, swimmers, class members, free swimmers, observers, cleaners, café staff, competition administrators, spectators and so on.