

2b2

Ecological Inventory

Do

Find out what non-disabled people actually do to participate in the community activity.

Story

It has been suggested that some services have spent years trying to help people with a disability to do maths up to 100, in order to manipulate money. When an inventory was carried out at a checkout, it was noticed that most people round up the bill to the next pound and then pocket their change without worrying whether they have been cheated out of a few coppers. So the necessary skill is rounding up, not adding up.

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Ecological Inventory

Hints & Hazards

The Ecological Inventory is a way of paying attention to what skills and behaviours non-disabled people actually use in order to attend a community activity. This can then be matched with the focus person's competencies in order to assess where the support is needed. It is vital to go and look, rather than to sit in an armchair and guess what people need to do.

In some settings, the skills needed to use the facilities are more complex than others, and the level of support varies too.

For example, Sanjeev visited a restaurant where they took his coat and poured out his wine (unlike his usual cafeteria where customers were expected to clear their table). But he couldn't find out how to use the sophisticated taps in the restaurant washroom!

See Gross and McGregor (undated) for a detailed example.