

2b3

Consider Everyone There

Do

Check out the roles and possible contribution of cleaners, receptionists, board members – everyone in the host community.

Story

‘One man said that he wanted help to get to know his community better. He was someone with a very loud voice and speech that was not very clear, so often people in the street recoiled from him because they didn’t understand him. We spent time walking through his community,

dropping into the local shops, having lunch in the cafes and often whiling away a few minutes sitting on a bench. It didn’t take long to discover that he already had a large number of connections and contacts in his community and just needed help and support to develop and deepen some of these passing acquaintances, but he certainly didn’t need help introducing himself.’ (*Kennedy et al 2002, p66*)

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Hints & Hazards

Sometimes people in the host community who are not immediately involved in the inclusion effort can make a real contribution. Avoid community 'saturation'. Wolfensberger (1972) warns against trying to introduce too many people who need support into any one group or neighbourhood. This is tempting where communities are hospitable.