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Fashion

Consider the status of the proposed activity in the wider society.

One worker wanted to set up a rag recycling project as part of an environmental initiative to reduce waste. Few of the people he wanted to involve were interested, as working with other people's rubbish felt like a low status activity.

On the other hand, most activities are fashionable amongst the right crowd. One person with a learning disability impersonates Elvis Presley and could fit in well amongst others who share his enthusiasm.

Fashion

Hints & Hazards

Around the turn of the millennium, TV shows about gardening were extremely popular and so DIY gardening was a fashionable thing to do. Other activities might be beneficial, but less fashionable.

Valued roles make people feel better and behave better, but can be constricting. Some people report feeling more at ease in neighbourhoods where a diverse range of behaviour is acceptable rather than an upmarket neighbourhood with more restrictive codes of acceptable conduct. Helping someone join a group where their unusual interest is shared with others might help them find friends, or destroy their sense of uniqueness, especially if they are shown to be less able than others in that group.

The activities that are fashionable or acceptable can vary between individuals too. A teenage girl likes to play with dolls. Her friends call round, quietly set aside the rule of 'age appropriate' behaviour and have fun joining in.