

2c4

Progression Routes

Do

Find out how participation in this activity can lead on to other opportunities.

Story

Sophie said, 'I tried volunteering in a school to fill my time in. At first I did a couple of days a week to see if I liked it. After realising I did and that I was competent I began doing a full week with more responsibility. Following this I progressed to volunteering while doing a teaching assistant course and was assessed in

class. Once I received the qualification, I could have tried to find a paid post or gone on to do a teaching degree'. (*personal communication*)

Wigan & Leigh college provides a path from special school through further education and into supported open employment. (*McIntosh & Whitaker 1998, p115*)

Hints & Hazards

'Progression route' is a term used in further education to refer to both an academic and an inclusion journey from non-accredited, congregated activities to higher qualifications achieved alongside other citizens. Advising someone to do something too stressful when progressing could undo the confidence and hard work built up on a lower level. Help the person to keep their feet on the floor and avoiding funnel vision, so that they consider all the options rather than ending up in something that makes them unhappy. Take things step by step and don't plan too far ahead. Don't let a disappointment discourage you overall.

As the above story illustrates, people can find a progression route through a range of diverse experiences. In addition, the community setting can link together its available activities so that they make a coherent sequence and participants can progress from one thing to the next. However, don't demand too rigid adherence to a single pathway.