

3c3

Deliberately Integrated Group

Do

Create a new group that enables people with and without disabilities to meet as equals.

Story

Some years ago, the Nottingham Museums and Art Gallery outreach programme provided activities for people with mental health issues – they learnt how to make papier mache masks. They then ran a public demonstration at Green's Windmill which included teaching adults and children from the general public how to make masks.

This demonstration, in which people with mental health issues became trainers, was the 'deliberately integrated group'. *See Dodd & Sandell 2001*

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Hints & Hazards

Community groups often planned activities for disabled people as a project, 'but they failed to accept them at other times as co-equal members of the community'. (Schalock and Lilley 1986, p675).

How do you respond if the group gradually loses its disabled or non-disabled members? Once past a certain ratio, it is really hard to recover. Is the group expected to be long-term or short-term? How do you encourage move-on? What duties do staff have towards 'community' members?

Community members may adopt traditional roles – dominating, taking charge or providing too much care for disabled members. Others might expect community members to take charge and so create passive roles for people needing support.