

## 6b1

# Travel Escort

### Do

Accompany the person on the journey to the activity

### Story

One college has a scheme called “learning partners”. Volunteers (who are trained and supported by staff) take part in courses alongside individuals who need support and so provide encouragement and companionship. The scheme is confidential in that the tutor and the other students do not know of this arrangement unless the focus person wishes to tell them.

One of the learning partners needed to assist Jim as a travel escort. It turned out that Jim was OK on the bus and OK in the classroom, but he needed support to walk down the bustling, noisy corridors. The learning partner met him at the main reception of the college and accompanied him down the corridor to his classroom and then said goodbye.

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### Hints & Hazards

Choose the right mode of transport e.g. car, bus or walk – are there alternative ways to make the journey? Rehearse the journey. Do the journey at the same time in which the person needs to do the journey normally and point out landmarks, (but note that sitting in a different seat may reveal different views). They might be able to participate in part of the journey (see 7b3) and then taper up their use of transport (see 7b5) or perhaps the supporter can tape down their support (see 7b7). Consider risks (see 6b6 Travel Disaster Planning). If the person becomes distressed, perhaps by shaking or becoming tearful, then this could fix a negative reputation to the person.

Some people feel that providing an escort is too intrusive and that they are not being trusted to make the journey alone. Today and Tomorrow's Work Opportunities at <http://www.tandtwo.co.uk/learning-resources.html> have a network of accredited travel trainers.