

6c3

Introduce Yourself

Do

Support the person to introduce themselves to a key individual at the community venue.

Story

The support worker travelled to the leisure centre with Daisy. When they met the organiser, Daisy spoke first and introduced herself and the worker to the organiser. This provided a strong guide to the organiser to direct her information to Daisy rather than the support worker. This was reinforced when it was time to look around the building and the support worker declined the offer of the tour and met them at the end.

6c3

Introduce Yourself

Hints & Hazards

Some people like to introduce themselves by showing new people a photo or a scrapbook containing information about themselves. They might need some encouragement and reassurance during the process. Unobtrusively check that both parties can understand each other. Consider any issues relating to confidentiality and disclosure prior to the visit. Discuss with the person how they can manage any special situations that might arise while they are in the building (such as panic attacks or epilepsy). A role-play might help. The person may need reminding that everyone feels some anxiety when in this situation.

Sometimes relationships with the person falter and drift into a 'does he take sugar' situation where people in the community are talking to the worker rather than the person. In this situation it helps if the worker will turn towards the person and engage them in the discussion, sometimes even refusing eye contact with the person who needs to redirect their attention. The person needing support may detect a negative attitude in the other person and respond to this, rather than ignore it and maintain a rehearsed greeting routine of 'good manners'.