

7b4

Attendance

Do

Go regularly to the same place.

Story

Pat joined an art group and attended every Monday without fail. Some other members of the group were less consistent in their attendance and Pat soon got a positive reputation in the group as the person who could be thoroughly relied upon. Her new friends at the art group helped her find and register with an art session that ran on Thursday evenings.

Mandy said that she felt safe because she did not have to account for her occasional absence. She had settled in well on the course and missing the occasional session meant that she was able to compete it.

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Attendance

Hints & Hazards

Regularly attending can make people feel good if they like routine in their lives. It can also accelerate the process of building relationships with others and reduce anxiety. Enquiries about non-attendance are sometimes difficult to handle. Others might feel that enquiries demonstrate an interest in the person's well-being.

Feeling uncomfortable is a natural part of starting a new activity, but how do you know when the discomforts is so persistent that it is a sign that the person really doesn't like the activity and wants to try something else? The person may miss an attendance because there

is some other problem – an unfriendly person or an unpopular activity. Ask permission to check it out with the leader of the group. Missing a few attendances can create a major blockage to returning and the person will need extra help to get started again.

If the person requires regular staff support to attend make sure that this is recognised by whoever plans the rota. Pulling a member of staff away to another activity may prevent the person attending and weaken the development of relationships and sense of belonging.