

7b6

Repair the Activity

Do

Recognise when the person's independent participation in an activity is breaking down and intervene to repair it.

Story

Two women started attending a sewing circle with their support worker. After a couple of weeks, the supporter withdrew. A few weeks after that, several members of the group began to complain at the group and elsewhere whilst others started to miss meetings all because the two women were talking too much and dominating the circle.

However, members were reluctant to say anything to the women themselves as it would appear unfriendly, and nobody knew how to contact the support worker.

Sharon was travelling independently on the bus but then gave it up. The group had a conversation about how sometimes things didn't work out and this gave Sharon permission to acknowledge that school children were calling her names whilst riding on the bus. She decided to make her journey at a later time, thus avoiding the children, and this solved the problem.

7b6

Repair the Activity

Hints & Hazards

Day centre staff may be very skilled at arranging and repairing activities, but sometimes activities break down because they are inappropriate and should be replaced rather than repaired. We all lose interest in things that we formerly enjoyed.

Sometimes the 'repair' fails to deal with the underlying causes – the bullying children in Sharon's story were not challenged. If support staff rush in to fix things themselves, they might interfere with the natural processes in the community setting which would otherwise have intervened. An alternative is to see who

else in the community setting could help with the repair. Could the bus driver help Sharon in the future?

Some people have developed reputations within services for 'giving up' on a number of groups or activities and assumptions are then made about their general lack of interest. It could be that they are yet to find an activity that they really enjoy and want to continue.