

7c2

Validate

Do

Recognise effort achievement in inclusive settings by taking photographs, giving praise, awarding certificates, etc.

Story

The local Volunteer Bureau has assembled a scrapbook of photos and short accounts by supported volunteers. This lives in the waiting room and provides help for people who are trying to decide what to do. The photos powerfully validate the activity of the subjects.

Chris took a course that demanded he submit photo and journal evidence of his work. The qualification he achieved was an important validation of his skills and application to the task.

Hints & Hazards

This can build up a person's confidence and self-esteem as well as helping them feel that they have achieved something. Recognition by another person is usually valued.

If the validation is an award, then some people may not want to sit the exam or may feel that the award is meaningless in their life. James was principal of a fine art college. When he was admitted to hospital, ward staff tried to validate his previous experience by asking him to do some 'colouring in'. He found this demeaning rather than validating.

Photos can show what people are doing in the community and exhibiting them in the day centre helps to stimulate interest amongst people still attending the centre and explain the empty seats to visiting managers – but mostly to validate the person's own activity. It helps the person to value the gifts they bring to the community.