

NYS OPWDD DSP Core Competencies

Video: Goal 7: Being Active and Productive in the Community

Handout

Goal #7 of the NYS OPWDD DSP Core Competencies addresses ways to support individuals in being active and productive in the community. The intent of this video is to help DSPs identify:

- areas of interest,
- possible places of employment, and
- socialization opportunities in the community.

This may seem easier than it actually is. Challenges faced by the DSP include:

- identifying a variety of places in the community;
- optimizing familiar places for use by the people they support;
- acknowledging that the person they support may not know what options are available, may struggle with expressing their interests, or may have difficulty in getting their interests understood by the staff.

The goal of this training is to teach DSPs to look at familiar places with fresh eyes!

Learning how to use pictures to discover the interests of the people you support

- *A picture tells a thousand words.*
- *Pictures grab attention, explain difficult concepts and inspire.*
- *Pictures help us communicate more easily.*
- *Pictures cross all language barriers.*
- *Pictures can be used to show more than one interest at a location.*

Technique 1: How to Use Questions (while looking at pictures)

- *Questions you use should proceed from open-ended to a more specific*
- *For example:*
 - *Open-ended question – “What do you see that you like?”*
 - *Pointing – “Can you point to something you like?”*
 - *Multiple Choice – “Which do you like better, this or that?”*
 - *Yes/No – “Would you like to do this?”*



Practice Activity 1

In groups of 2, take turns practicing using questions to explore interests in a picture. One staff chooses and describes a person they support, and the second one practices questions for discovery of interests.

Technique 2: Discovering Interests by Using Pictures

- *Think outside the box – assume there is more to any picture than is seen at first glance.*
- *Check for your understanding.*
- *Make a note of similarities and recurring preferences.*

Practice Activity 2

In groups of 2, take turns role-playing the person supported and the staff--practicing the discovery of interests by using pictures and connecting similarities.

-Have one staff look at the pictures on the screen (or in the handouts).

-Using techniques 1 & 2, write down everything that interests the other staff from each picture. Focus on one picture at a time.

-Then look for similarities and identify specific interests and then locations that these interests may be realized.

Technique 3: Discovering Interests When Pictures Are Not an Effective Method

In some instances, pictures will not be an effective tool to discover interests because:

- *A person may be visually impaired.*
- *A person may not understand that a picture represents an object or activity.*

Practice Activity 3

In groups of 2, take turns role-playing the person supported and the staff--practicing the discovery process; how would you offer a tangible experience to someone if pictures aren't effective?"

Transitioning from Pictures to the Community for more Discovery

What are some things that Franny discovered in the Pizza Shop?

What possible employment opportunities were available in the Pizza Shop?

Jared at the Library

Activity – *There were more than 10 different possible interests that were explored. How many you can remember?*

From Exploration and Discovery to a Person Centered Plan – What is the next step?

What is the purpose of the debriefing?

What did you learn from watching this process?

Activity

In small groups, write down a number of locations in your community that could be better explored. Select one of those locations and “explore with fresh eyes.” Record what you “see.”

Final Activity:

Think of a specific person you are now supporting and write down a plan of how you will help that person to better use the community employing the following techniques:

- *Use pictures to find interests*
- *Explore specific locations based on information gained from the pictures*
- *Explore familiar locations to discover other opportunities*
- *Share the information to create a person centered plan*

Picture #1



Picture #2



Picture #3



Picture #4

