Steps Towards Friendship – implementing a leisure buddy program

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overview

• about this paper
• how the program works
• achievements and learnings
• descriptions of the leisure buddy experience

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how the program works

- recruitment of people with intellectual disability and community volunteers
- initiating matching
- monitoring matches
- supporting matches over time

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achievements and learnings

• **set up takes time.** Matches do happen and many are enduring. All matches are an achievement

• each match is **different**

• people with different disabilities are matched.

• a good match may not come from what people ask for first: coordinator’s judgements are critical.

• **different** recruitment processes needed for volunteers.

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descriptions of the leisure buddy experience

Recruiting community volunteers and people with disabilities

Initiating matching – geography, gender, interests, gut feeling

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descriptions of a leisure buddy experience

- Monitoring Matches – frequency, benefits

- Supporting matches over time – individually tailored support and supervision

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thank you and questions