

BRIDGING BARRIERS

Building bridges between community, self and future employment



FOR WHAT PURPOSE / REASON

ACCESSIBILITY

OPPORTUNITIES

ADAPTABILITY

TECHNOLOGY

Bridging Barriers:

It is important to acknowledge areas where skills need developing in ourselves but equally important for people with disabilities to address external factors like physical access and or access to information.

Nowadays, use of technology can be a gamechanger for many. When set up with a purpose to break down barriers there are apps/settings that support access for certain limitations/impairments.



RESEARCH - WHAT OTHERS FOUND

Improving accessibility to cultural heritage for people with Intellectual Disabilities: A tool for observing the obstacles and facilitators for the access to knowledge

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The main goal of the article is to investigate accessibility to knowledge for people with Intellectual Disability in a cultural heritage site, focus on readability and comprehensibility of the existing textual resources. The research surveyed a group of 8 participants on their experience tours across the archeological site in Aquileia (Aquileia, Italy). Results show that four broad themes emerged: perception and physical interaction with content resources; language and symbols; contents comprehension and engagement with knowledge.

For 'Language and Symbols' the complexity of vocabulary, syntax and ambiguity of the words and symbols reported as the main obstacles. Scarcely readable because the boards were too far, poorly lit and the characters too small and barely legible. Some participants suggested improvements by transforming textual resources to promote access, for example, through visual (e.g., images, video). Employers can also use participants' feedback to improve the workplace environment.



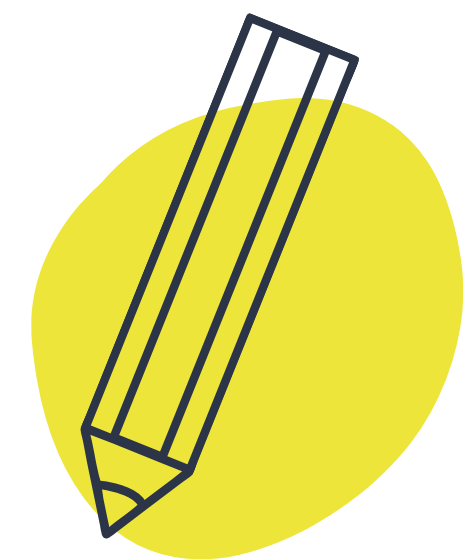
APPY IDEAS/SOLUTIONS



Building bridges between community, self and future employment.

- Doing some investigation about jobs/work sites
- Do they have adequate physical access
- What technology they currently use eg McDonalds customers use touch screen to order but the staff operate a computerised cash register. Who may need more training? Is it staff to meet needs of diverse learners looking for employment and/or does their training resources come in accessible formats.

These investigations could be informal observations, asking someone who has been there or works there and or asking the employer to fill out a questionnaire.



TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Apps/Software/Resources

Resources

[NDS - Workplace literacy-project](#)

The cost of low-level, workforce literacy skills can be significant. This can however be mitigated by the benefits experienced by employers engaged in workplace literacy projects.

Apps/Settings

See Topic 3 Technology Solutions for Communication

Learn About Accessibility Settings for the device/software type and or seek suitably qualified service



REAL LIFE

Technology solutions may not be enough to ensure successful 'bridging barriers'. Often a holistic approach is required.

Addressing sensory needs can also influence how likely a person can manage themselves without support in their workplace.

For example a Developmental educator or Occupational Therapist can do a Sensory Needs assessment and provide you with a sensory needs profile. Recommendations can be itemised using technology, using pictures and or using timers so that you 'brain or sensory breaks' are built into the day. This is a prevention rather than cure or 'what and see' strategy which if implemented at work would help someone to regulate their emotions which should help with their overall participation and job satisfaction.

