



Active Insight: Evidence in Action



Tip #1117: Encouraging Community Recreation Access

Overview

Encouraging equitable access to community recreation supports students to transfer classroom learning into real-world contexts and strengthens movement competence and personal and social capability. Schools play a pivotal role in connecting students with local facilities, programs and transport options while modelling inclusive practice and risk-aware participation. Framing activities as authentic community experiences emphasises learning through movement and builds confidence with movement skills that students will use beyond school. Aligning approaches with curriculum intent and national participation strategies helps ensure sustainable, curriculum-aligned opportunities for all learners.

Key Teaching Ideas

Designing school approaches to community recreation access requires purposeful pedagogy that foregrounds transferable movement outcomes and community partnerships. Use sequenced progressions of movement skills and explicit feedback to build movement competence, then scaffold supported excursions and community tasters to consolidate learning through movement. Integrate tasks that develop personal and social capability through collaborative planning and leadership roles. Partnership work with local providers and councils strengthens authenticity and pathways while meeting curriculum intentions for contextualised learning and lifelong participation.

Practical Application

- **Venue Mapping Lesson:** Run a 20-minute lesson where students use school devices to locate nearby parks, pools, halls and community centres, noting opening times, cost and transport. Compile a classroom map that identifies barriers and proposes solutions to present to the school leadership team.
- **Community Skills Clinic:** Email a community sport club or council recreation officer to arrange a 30 to 45 minute taster session or skills clinic aligned to a current unit so students practise fundamental movement skills in a real setting. Prepare a clear one-page curriculum link to share with the provider.



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- **Adapted Skill Progressions:** Use modified equipment and varied task constraints, smaller targets, slower balls, peer coaching prompts, to explicitly teach progressions of a selected fundamental movement skill and record individual movement competence targets.
- **Transport and Cost Awareness Task:** Co-design a short in-class task where small groups research transport options, concession fares and safety considerations for attending a local recreation venue, then role-play booking and budgeting to build personal and social capability.
- **Community Access Portfolio:** Start a student portfolio template that collects permission forms, contact details, simple risk assessments and reflective prompts about barriers and enablers. Use it to streamline future excursions and community-based assessment tasks.

Next Steps

[Active Education Australia](#) has resources on community recreation access and school-community partnerships. [Anywhere PD](#) covers strategies for scaffolding excursions and community-based learning.

References and Research

Australian Sport Commission - National agency providing guidance on participation pathways, community sport and resources for engaging schools with local sport and recreation providers.