
Motionhouse

Est. 1988

Reminders before a touch tour

Do:

- Ask before you take people's hands
- Allow people plenty of time – it takes longer to explore by touch
- Check on fragility and sharp edges
- Always introduce yourself, with your name and your role
- If you need to touch the person lightly on the arm, do so after speaking
- Be aware that blind and partially sighted people do not always "look" blind, have dark glasses, carry a white cane or have a guide dog
- Always look the person in the eye
- Speak clearly
- Make it clear to the participant that you are listening to them – don't just nod your head
- Offer your arm/elbow – do not grab the participant's arm
- Go at a pace which is comfortable for them
- Explain any noises or smells
- Warn of obstacles - pillars, steps, uneven floor, doors, including higher obstacles, which might bump the head
- Always say whether steps go up or down and mention when you are on the first and last step. Tell people if there is a handrail
- Take great care with doors – explain if they open in or out, ask if the person wants to take the weight and make sure you go first
- When going through a narrow or tight space ask the person to tuck in behind you
- Place the participant's hand on the back of the seat when they reach their chair and ensure they won't bump their head on the wall behind
- Give the participant a choice if they want to partake in an activity

Don't:

- Assume that people can't see you
- Ask what happened to you or how much can you see?
- Walk off without saying you are going
- Lean on someone's wheelchair
- Cover your mouth with your hand when speaking and don't mumble or talk too fast