

How to accompany unaccompanied minors?

Some thoughts on good practice

When you are with unaccompanied minors, share this question:

What if our differences are not an obstacle to be overcome, but rather a resource for new ways of solving problems? (Kenneth Gergen).

See your relationship with them as a resource that you build together.

Then do this:



7 fundamentals

- Help them feel safe when they arrive, stay, and leave
- Make time, build trust, question gently
- Show respect that restores dignity
- Never give up on them
- Be reliable and adaptable
- Explain the rules, inside and outside the house
- Be a citizen maker, not a border guard

7 ways of feeling at home

- Offer a warm and gentle welcome
- Learn and use a few words in their language
- Create a cosy, family like environment
- Be realistic in a calm way: say 'yes' and 'no' kindly
- Ask for their ideas and try to make these happen
- If you don't agree with their ideas, explain why
- Keep them informed of what's happening

7 relationship rules

- Be curious about how they became the person who they are
- Do shared activities: sports; cooking together; visiting together; doing nothing together
- Recover the rhythm of ordinary life: routines and rituals
- Create chances for them to give something back to others
- Understand their experience of time
- Respect their right to privacy
- Enjoy their company

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