

WORKSHEET 3*Sarah and the flower vase*

Please read the following story.

Sarah has applied for a job as an accountant in a small company. They sell decoration articles for shops in the floristry and gardening sector (clay figures, pictures, vases, creative pedestals, etc.). She applies there with a typical letter of application, followed by an interview. The hiring manager of the company is convinced of Sarah's skills and her friendly personality and hires her. Sarah enjoys this work, she not only likes the ambience of the company but also the small team. The job in the accounting department does not cause her any problems so far. One day they receive a large order for big, decorative flower vases. The manager asks her to help pack and deliver the vases. But after only a few hours of this work she drops one of the vases. "I can't hold on to such large objects," confesses Sarah. "I had a serious accident in my youth, since then I can't hold on tightly with my left hand". The manager is furious - and the next day Sarah has her notice in her letterbox. He accuses her from keeping her disability from him during the interview and states that in a small business such as his, there is only room for employees who are fully available. .

Reflect on your own behaviour and answer the questions in short, honest sentences:

1. Is Sarah a "person with a disability" for you?
2. What is your perception about people with disabilities? Reflect about whether you have any prejudices of your own. What prejudices and ideas do the characters in the story have?
3. What should the story be like? What is fairer, better, more appropriate? How would you have behaved in Sarah's place and if you were the hiring manager?
4. What opportunities do people with disabilities have in companies at all?
5. As a job coach, how do you deal with the fact that people with a disability hardly have any chances if they are fired?
6. What does it mean if you want to build a network for people with disabilities?