



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

Be Present

Pay close attention to the young adult and everything they have to say. Don't multitask while talking with youth.



Offer Meaningful Engagement

Youth-friendly activities should be geared toward their interests and needs. Meet youth at their current level of knowledge and development. Let them experience and discover their passions.

Provide Leadership Opportunities

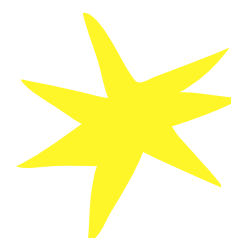
Provide youth the opportunity to play active, independent roles. Involve them in ALL aspects of programming and support their opinions and ideas.

Motivate

Encourage positivity. Challenge youth to exceed their expectations.

Seek and Value Youth Input and Perspective

The youth perspective is crucial. Past experiences, family life, and other factors and/or barriers have influenced their thinking. Be open to learning from youth.



Remain Youth-Centered

Be genuine, sincere, and authentic in your relationship with youth. Be open to a young person's perspective, thoughts, opinions, and feelings to establish a positive, constructive relationship.



Encourage Reflection

Confiding to an adult might be difficult. Respect their feelings when they offer personal information, talk about something important to them, confides a risk or struggle they are facing.

Provide Support

Advocate for youth. Identify resources and learning experiences to support growth.

Celebrate

Celebrate diverse abilities and accomplishments, but also assist youth in overcoming setbacks. Don't forget to have fun!

Recognize Assumptions

Recognize and appreciate youth for who they are and what they offer without passing judgment. Evaluate your assumptions of young people.

