



The Youth Work Methods Series

The Youth Work Methods are powerful strategies for working with young people, based on positive youth development. The Methods are a key part of the Youth Program Quality Intervention (YPQI), a comprehensive system for integrating assessment and training. Each Method is linked to assessment items and designed to help youth workers improve the areas they choose to focus on.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- **Voice & Choice**
- **Planning and Reflection**

PEER INTERACTION

- **Building Community**
- **Cooperative Learning**

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- **Active Learning**
- **Asking Questions**
- **Encouragement**
- **Reframing Conflict**
- **Homework Help**

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- **Structure and Clear Limits**
- **Introduction to Youth Development**

Youth Engagement

Voice & Choice Providing young people with authentic, meaningful choices and a voice in the program are hallmarks of truly engaging environments.

Planning and Reflection The planning and reflection process, central to the Weikart Center approach for every age, can turn a fun activity into a powerful learning experience!

Youth Interaction

Building Community A strong, welcoming community can encourage positive peer relationships, personal growth, and create a space for learning.

Cooperative Learning Using small groups to meet the social and intellectual needs of youth can result in productive and collaborative experiences.

Supportive Environment

Active Learning Meaningful content and adult support are key ingredients for creating an interesting and productive learning environment.

Asking Questions Build supportive, youth-centered relationships by asking effective questions and listening actively to youth.

Encouragement Empower and support youth to learn through the use of specific, non-evaluative comments and questions.

Reframing Conflict In this approach, adults support youth in addressing their conflicts, and youth have a voice in determining both the cause and the solution to the conflict.

Homework Help Implement research-based strategies for making homework time productive, organized around providing positive adult support, effective routines, and communication with teachers.

Safe Environment

Structure and Clear Limits Appropriate structure and clear limits can provide stability, predictability, and organization for youth—a safe and productive space for learning!

Introduction to Youth Development This course describes the overall Methods series, rooted in positive youth development, education, and psychological theory and research.