

Creative Ways to Solicit Feedback from Children and Youth

Many programs for children and youth get buried under a seemingly bottomless pile of surveys. Funders and partners each commonly require separate surveys, leading to widespread survey fatigue for kids and staff. And get this: that's not the only problem. Surveys can be challenging for very young people or those with limited literacy. Plus, survey results rarely tell the whole story, and they leave few opportunities for youth to provide detailed feedback. Consider these tips and activity ideas to solicit a different kind of feedback from children and youth:

GET VISUAL!

Ask children and youth to express themselves through visuals. It allows youth to get creative and express their artistic talents. Plus, it allows younger children to communicate their ideas without having to write.



PICTURE PAGES

In this activity, ask youth to draw or collage about the particular aspect of your program you want feedback on. Then review the drawings and collages for themes and/or tallies of the elements you are curious about. For more nuanced responses, ask youth to present what the images mean to them, since that's where the data really comes from!

GET MOVING!

It always feels good to get up and move around. Ask youth to participate in games as a way to convey their feedback. They will be more engaged, and you will get better information!



FOUR CORNERS

Four Corners measures the number of participants with certain attitudes or values. Ask youth to move around the room to the corner that matches their response to a close-ended prompt. For example, if you work at an after-school program you can say statements like "I learned something new in this program," or "I had fun today." Youth walk to the corner that matches their responses (e.g., Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree). Ask youth to share why they chose their corner to learn more details. For younger audiences, simplify with two corners and use symbols (e.g. thumbs up, smiley face, etc.) instead of words.

USE WHAT YOU ALREADY DO!

If you work with children and youth, the chances are you already do activities that can double as data collection methods. For instance, activities like art projects, theatrical performances, or ice breaker games can be about the topic you want input on. All you need to do is take notes and use what you learn! For younger kids, you can make these activities more accessible by reading questions aloud, establishing feedback activities as part of your routine, and using symbols in addition to words to indicate responses.

Check out Public Profit's guide, *Creative Ways to Solicit Stakeholder Feedback*, for details on how to do Picture Pages, Four Corners, and other data collection methods. Photo Response, Personal Meaning Map, Feedback Wall, Token Survey, Candy Survey, and Snowball Survey are particularly good fits for children and youth.

For step-by-step instructions on these activities and more tips, download a free copy of Public Profit's guide: <https://www.publicprofit.net/Creative-Ways-To-Solicit-Stakeholder-Feedback>