

Ladder of Youth Participation

Adopted from Hart, R. (1992) Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship

Where does your center find itself on the ladder leading to youth empowerment?



8: Shared decision making

7: Youth-led and initiated

6: Youth/Adult equality

5: Consulted and Informed

4: Assigned and Informed

3: Tokenism*

2: Decoration*

1: Manipulation*

***The first three rungs illustrate non-participation and are not recommended.**

To find where you are on the spectrum, refer to the following chart:

Youth Empowerment

Rung	Description
1. Manipulation	Attendance mandatory regardless of youth's desire
2. Decoration	Presence without involvement
3. Tokenism	Limited participation with appearance of inclusion
4. Assigned and Informed	Limited impact on adult decision making
5. Consulted and Informed	Youth authority subject to adult approval
6. Youth/Adult equality	Equal split of authority, obligation, commitment
7: Youth-led and initiated	Adults support youth leadership and ownership
8: Shared decision making	Youth and Adult equal recognition for impact and ownership