



Engaging with Aboriginal Children and Young People toolkit

Practical tips and steps for implementation 'on the day'

Step 1 - Greet participants

- Welcome everyone to the space
- Acknowledge everyone by name and hand out any name tags
- Get participants settled in for the day

Step 2 – Explain

- Introduce yourself and your organisation
- Allow participants to introduce themselves
- Remind participants of why they are there (the purpose of the activity)
- Set out the plan for the day

Tip 1 - Be prepared to adapt and be flexible

Expect the unexpected, it is your role to make sure the participation experience is smooth for children and young people and that you achieve the desired outcomes for your organisation, which is likely to require flexibility when working with children and young people.

Tip 2 - Be prepared to work with a range of age groups

It is common for Aboriginal children and young people to have responsibility for siblings and other family members who may come along on the day.

Step 3 - Manage

- Explain consent/right to withdraw (obtain consent where not previously provided, make sure you have extra consent forms on hand)
- Explain any relevant emergency procedures and the location of the bathrooms, water/refreshments etc
- Set out the rules for the day – or include an activity for children and young people to develop their own rules
- Duty of care – explain the boundaries of the day and the support available to children and young people
- Distress – if you are dealing with sensitive topics, it is particularly important to acknowledge from the outset that children and young people may feel challenged/upset/anxious or angry and direct them what they can do if this occurs i.e. who to speak to, if there is a safe space they can go to
- Health - monitor the wellbeing of the young people in your care, ensure you are aware of any food or other allergies, that nutritional sustenance is provided and that children and young people are well catered for and aware of food breaks

Tip 3 - strategies where consent can't be obtained for a particular use e.g. publication

There are a number of reasons why a family or individual may not give consent for particular activities, to the best of your ability try to still include those individuals where possible or set up alternative activities for them to be included in (where appropriate) so that their contribution can still be obtained in a respectful way.

For example, if you do not have photo consent for a particular child, you may wish to place them on the end of group shots so that they can be easily cropped if consent cannot be obtained.

If you don't wish to identify particular children but wish to capture their voice, consider photographs from angles that do not include their face or photographing their work (such as a poster).

Step 4 – Closing

- Acknowledge that the participants have a unique perspective and have made a valuable contribution to your organisation in sharing their views
- Explain the next steps for your work and how their information will be used
- Outline when and how feedback or outcomes will be provided/updated to the participants

Transport home – ensure children and young people can get home safely.