

Opportunities for Belonging and Meaningful Inclusion



This checklist is part of the 8 Key Qualities of Youth Engagement.*

This quality of youth engagement is achieved through practices such as these:

- Visible displays (posters, resources...) and celebration of diversity
- Greeting teams that meet and welcome participants to events
- Community-building activities (ice-breakers) that facilitate learning names, getting to know one-another and establishing connections
- Learning participant names and using them often
- Accommodating different needs, values and lifestyles (creating a genderless washroom, having dietary options that respect different religions/beliefs, etc.)
- Opportunities to share cultures, sub-cultures and individual talents (talent shows, youth opportunities to teach a skill, custom, slang, or word in another language, etc.)
- Incorporating practices from different cultures (acknowledging traditional territories, using a talking stick, etc.)
- Activities that draw on a variety of skills and strengths (art-based, written, verbal, individual, collaborative, etc.)
- Adapting activities to ensure they can include/accommodate all abilities
- Employing a translator or facilitating group translation for participants that speak a different language
- Mentorship and peer support programs to help orient new participants

* According to Eccles and Gootman¹⁴, there are eight key qualities associated with positive developmental settings: Physical and Psychological Safety, Appropriate Structure, Supportive Relationships, Opportunities for Belonging and Meaningful Inclusion, Positive Social Norms, Support for Efficacy and Mattering, Opportunities for Skill Building and Learning and Integration of Family, School and Community Efforts