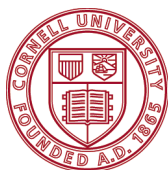


Consider Age Appropriate Activities

Depending on the age of the children and youth in your program, there are many ways to incorporate opportunities for decision-making.

Reflect and ask yourself:

- Is there anything you are doing that could be done by the children and youth in your program?
- Are there any decisions that they could make?
 - Keep in mind that it is worse to set up false expectations by giving children the opportunity for input that isn't real. For example, if you know that your school garden must be in a certain location, and that the groundskeeper and administration have stated that it can only be so large in scale and scope, containing so many plants, then children's input may be limited to certain decisions.
- If certain decisions are made, and they are different from what you envisioned, can you live with them?
- Are there open-ended possibilities within your program design?
- Are there opportunities for determining elements within a designed activity? For example, you've decided that planting will take place over these three days, but is there a way that children and youth can decide what to plant?
- Can interested children and youth engage in further activities on their own?
- Can a special club be formed that isn't faced with some of the constraints of, for example, the school day?



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