



## Engagement in Learning

Youth benefit from opportunities to experience meaningful challenge. Success at these experiences helps youth develop a personal sense of importance and to be engaged in learning. Youth must see the activities as demanding, novel and creative and to feel challenged to accomplish them. If youth are not engaged in learning, they may not experience personal growth from the activity.

### **In our youth group.....**

- Do youth identify needs and set goals to meet these needs?
- Do youth help design group activities and their structure?
- Do youth have the opportunity to lead groups and recruit other youth to be involved?
- Are youth allowed to assume responsible leadership positions in group activities?
- Do youth have opportunities to utilize social, interpersonal and communication skills?

### **Some practices your group might want to implement to provide opportunities for engaged learners:**

- Mix hand-on activities, group projects and paper and pencil exercises in group activities.
- Educate adults on using multi-faceted teaching approaches that include group investigation, experiential learning, and multiple outcomes.
- Model that failure and frustration are part of the learning process.
- After a group activity, provide time for reflection and application of skills and learning to other areas.
- Provide feedback to youth.
- Encourage youth to improve their skills through goal setting and challenges.

**Why is it important for youth to be engaged in learning?** Development is something that young people do for themselves with help from parents and communities. To foster development, youth need to be engaged and know that they make a difference. Theory suggests that youth develop a sense of self and identity through acting, taking on challenges and making meaningful contributions.