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our goal is **healthy** children

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TRAUMA- INFORMED YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



**YOUTH ACTION
FOR PREVENTION**



A trauma-informed approach is understanding the wide-ranging impacts of trauma and being responsive to these impacts. It is emphasizing the physical, psychological, and emotional safety of service providers and survivors of trauma as they work together to create opportunities that empower survivors. A trauma-informed approach is understanding the wide-ranging impacts of trauma and being responsive to these impacts. It is emphasizing the physical, psychological, and emotional safety of service providers and survivors of trauma as they work together to create opportunities that empower survivors. A trauma-informed approach is understanding the wide-ranging impacts of trauma and being responsive to these impacts. It is emphasizing the physical, psychological, and emotional safety of service providers and survivors of trauma as they work together to create opportunities that empower survivors.



A trauma-informed approach is strength-based and involves understanding the wide-ranging impacts of trauma and being responsive to these impacts. It is emphasizing the physical, psychological, and emotional safety of survivors of trauma and service providers as they work together to create opportunities that empower survivors.

How to Incorporate a Trauma-Informed Approach into Youth Engagement

1. Ensure Safety

It is a priority that both youth and adult allies feel safe in all aspects of engagement. This includes feelings of safety in the physical environment and interpersonal interactions.

2. Provide Trustworthiness and Transparency

Youth and adults build their relationships based on trust, respect, and transparency. Provide clear communication and transparency when making decisions to help build and maintain trust and transparency.

3. Facilitate Peer Support

Peer support is important for promoting safety, building trust, and enhancing collaboration. Facilitating strong peer relationships can function as a protective factor and facilitate healing.

4. Encourage Collaboration and Mutuality

Building meaningful relationships is essential to a trauma-informed approach and for successful youth engagement. Enable collaboration and shared decision-making through relationships built on mutual interests.

5. Promote Empowerment, Voice, and Choice

Support youth to engage in decision-making and to express their needs and perspectives. As an organization or adult ally, understand the impact of power differences and barriers to youth speaking up. Encourage youth to develop the skills to set goals, make decisions, and advocate for themselves and their peers.

6. Address Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues

It is important to work towards an anti-oppressive approach that recognizes the realities of oppression, including racism, colonialism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, and others. Recognize the healing value of cultural connection. Incorporate policies and procedures that are responsive to the racial, cultural, and ethnic needs of youth. Recognize and work to address historic and ongoing trauma.