

## Environment

1. The program provides an environment that protects and enhances the health, safety of all participants and protects youth from harm and unnecessary risks.
2. Program space and materials are appropriate to the requirements of the youth, staff, and curriculum.
3. The indoor and outdoor space provides an atmosphere of comfort, ownership, and respect for children, youth and their families.
4. When provided, snacks are well balanced and nutritious.
5. Appropriate transportation rules are followed.

## Administration

1. Staff-to-youth ratios and group size permit the staff to deliver quality informal education (1:15)
2. All program staff, including managers and supervisors, receive relevant training for youth work and are engaged in regular professional development activities.
3. Organizations engage in systematic evaluation which records inputs, outputs, activities and outcomes to identify continuous quality improvement.
4. The program sets clear expectations for participant behavior and active, consistent participation.
5. The program solicits feedback from children, youth, their families and community organizations about program activities.
6. The program builds links to the community.
7. Participants have choice in the programs, which are engaging, varied and flexible.

## Programming

1. Activities reflect and promote the mission of the program.
2. The program provides a mix of well-structured and loosely structured activities that support and promote creativity.
3. The program offers opportunities for age-appropriate learning, physical activity, skill building and development.
4. Youth are involved in program planning and development.
5. Programs provide regular, structured opportunities for youth and adults to exchange ideas and think critically about issues that youth identify as important to them.
6. Programs provide opportunities for increasing youth participation and leadership.
7. Youth collaborate with staff to create a personal plan that is relevant, meaningful, and engaging.
8. Program staff are thoughtful, influence learning and increase knowledge for participants.
9. Participants experience and learn about diversity and inclusion.
10. The program builds upon community resources.

## Relationships

1. Youth and staff work together to plan, implement and evaluate suitable activities consistent with the agency mission and agreed outcomes.
2. Staff relationships with participants are positive, supportive, nurturing, and consistent.
3. Staff and volunteers encourage participants to make choices and become more responsible.
4. Youth and staff build many links to diverse communities.
5. Staff provides youth and families appropriate, accurate information, including referral options when necessary.

## Assessment

1. Program Participation
2. Engagement in Learning
3. Content & Skills Acquisition
4. Youth engagement (social-emotional)
5. Staff to youth ratio (1:15 at minimum)
6. Staff participation in professional development