

Amy's Top tips for supporting young people in youth-led research

In the process of supporting young people to conduct youth-led research we have learned a lot and reflected a lot and are now in a position to share some top tips.

- Take the time to build relationships with young people. By building an atmosphere of trust, respect and confidence will help provide an environment to ask and explore challenging questions.
- Be flexible in your own methods – This approach is flexible and can be adapted depending on the young people you are working with. The feedback we got from the youth workers was that the young people were more engaged in the research because they choosing to take part and it was on topics that mattered to them. So, be flexible and adapt your methods to suit the group.
- Let the young people be creative – research doesn't have to be presented as a series of charts, pie graphs and quotation marks. When it comes to presenting the research let the young people take the creative lead and who knows where it might go. The young people in Youngwummin presented their research through interpretive dance, handmade newspapers, diary entries, photographs etc.
- Encourage young people to engage with their community – Some of the most interesting research produced by the young people is when they went out and spoke to community members and learned different perspectives.
- Visit your local libraries and museums – Local libraries and museums are filled with fascinating information and staff eager to engage with young people. Many of the young people we have worked had never been to their local heritage sites, this can provide an invaluable opportunity to engage with heritage in their communities and not rely on Wikipedia for their research.
- Recognise the young people's achievements – through Youngwummin and Scotswummin we provided the young people with an opportunity to work towards an SCQF level 5 qualification named the Participative Democracy Certificate. This provided recognition for the work they were already doing as part of the project

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