



Child-friendly Communities Engagement Framework

Appendix B Tool examples

Developed by ARACY for the Australian Government
Department of Social Services



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Please note that this resource is a working version for use among Facilitating and Community Partners of the Communities for Children Program (CfC) and is not for general circulation.

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Engagement and consultation tool examples

This appendix provides examples of engagement and consultation tools using the statements and prompts from the Framework (see Appendix A), demonstrating a range of approaches (see Table 3.1). See [Section 3: Listening of the Framework](#) for more detail.

Further resources and examples

For further examples and guidance on different approaches to use with children, please see the following:

- [Centre for Community Child Health Voice of the Child Toolkit](#) for more information on these methods, including:
 - Interviews
 - Surveys
 - Art-based Activities
 - Photography
 - Task-oriented and activity-based methods
 - Youth Advisory Groups.
- [Me First Resource Hub](#) – provides resources and guidance on communicating with children, including *Three Houses Tool*, and *People who support me* tool.

Visual and creative approaches

The following tables provide examples of visual/audio and creative approaches to engaging with children. Examples of some of these approaches using general wellbeing statements, and domain-specific (from Participating domain) statement and prompts, are also provided below.

Table B.1 Visual/audio methods (individually or as a group activity)

Art activity	Children make a picture via a drawing, painting, collage, or map in response to a question. Can be done individually or in a group and can be followed by a discussion.
Graffiti wall	Children draw, paint or on pieces of paper hung up on the walls in the form of graffiti then discuss as a group.
Photo/video/audio	Ensure permission to photograph consent is in place. Provide children with equipment to record their views on the selected topic. Ask children to tell you about the recordings they have made. Ensure recordings are stored securely in line with your organisation's Records Management Policy.

Note: Adapted from Ballarat, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton & Wyndham City Councils, and the Department of Education (Vic) (2023), pp. 28-29.

Table B.2 Creative and playful methods
(individually or as a group activity)

These activities can be used to conduct an interactive survey with a group or individual (rather than a written individual survey)

Agree/disagree or like/dislike	Place four signs around the room. The signs read 'agree', 'disagree', 'strongly agree' and 'strongly disagree'. Read out statements or questions and ask the children to go to a label that best reflects how they feel.
Bead or ball box	Children vote by placing a bead or ball in a pot or box.
Post-it ideas storm	Divide into groups and give each child post-it notes and a pen. Write the question to be discussed on a flip chart. Ask the group to write their ideas onto a post-it note (one idea per post-it note). Collect the notes and stick them on the flip chart, clumping similar ideas together for discussion.
Speech bubbles	Put up a picture to represent what you want feedback on. The children can draw their thoughts and ideas in speech bubbles on the display.
Model/construction work	Children build or make models in response to a question. Can be done individually or in a group and can be followed by a discussion.
Postcards or letters	Write a postcard or letter answering a question or on a topic and have an onsite 'letter box' to collect responses

Note: Adapted from Ballarat, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton & Wyndham City Councils, and the Department of Education (Vic) (2023), pp. 28-29.

General wellbeing – broad core statements

1. Draw a picture/take pictures/make a collage of the things you like about your neighbourhood.

Think about places where you feel comfortable and happy, where you enjoy spending your time, places where you play, where you spend time with your friends, where you spend time with family, places in nature you spend time in; people who care about you, you enjoy spending time with; local events and activities that you and your family have attended in the last year.

[This can be followed by a discussion on when they feel happy in their neighbourhood, at school and at home]

2. Draw a picture/take pictures/make a collage of the things you don't like about your neighbourhood.

[This can be followed by a guided discussion on what they would like to see changed]

3. This picture represents your neighbourhood. Write or draw in the speech bubbles surrounding it
 - a. What you like about your neighbourhood.
 - b. What you don't like about your neighbourhood.
 - c. What you would like to see change
4. This picture represents your school/neighbourhood/home. Write or draw in the speech bubbles surrounding it about when you feel happy there.
5. Make a model/map/write or draw on a postcard what you like about your neighbourhood.

Think about places where you feel comfortable and happy, where you enjoy spending your time, places where you play, where you spend time with your friends, where you spend time with family, places in nature you spend time in; people who care about you, you enjoy spending time with; local events and activities that you and your family have attended in the last year.

[If possible, this can be followed by a discussion on when they feel happy in their neighbourhood, at school and at home]

6. Make a model/map/write or draw on a postcard the things you don't like about your neighbourhood.

[If possible, this can be followed by a guided discussion on what they would like to see changed]

Domain-specific statements and prompts (Participating)

1. Draw a picture/take pictures/make a collage of things you do after school/on the weekend.

[If possible, this can be followed by a guided discussion on their hobbies]

2. Draw picture/take pictures/make a collage of the things you like to do with your family/friends/in your neighbourhood/in [insert location].

[If possible, this can be followed by a guided discussion on what they drew, and why they drew it]

3. Write or draw on a postcard the things you are the boss of, or have a say in, in your life.

[If possible, this can be followed by a guided discussion on places and people where they feel comfortable sharing their ideas and opinions]

These activities could also be used with the further detail open statements/prompts eg.
(Draw a picture of your hobbies OR Draw a picture of the places where you play etc.)

Survey approaches

The following shows examples of survey questions.

General wellbeing - Broad core statements

1. In the space below, describe the things that you like about your neighbourhood.

2. In the space below, describe the things you don't like about your neighbourhood.

3. Complete the sentence in the space below.

If I could change anything about my neighbourhood, it would be...

4. Complete the sentences in the space provided.

I feel happy in my neighbourhood when...

I feel happy at home when...

I feel happy at school when...

Domain-specific statements and prompts (Participating)

1. Complete the sentences in the space below.

After school, I...

On the weekend, I...

In my life, I am the boss of...

2. In the space below, describe the things you like to do with your family.

3. In the space below, describe the things you like to do with your friends.

4. In the space below, describe the things you like to do in your neighbourhood/[insert location].

5. For each statement below, pick the number that best shows whether you agree or disagree (1 means you strongly disagree, 3 means neither agree nor disagree, and 5 means strongly agree).

I can have a say in family decisions

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

My family and I join in with local activities or neighbourhood events

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

My family spends time doing activities together

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

I like to share my thoughts and ideas with my family

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

I do sports or other activities (music, dance etc.) after school

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

I like to share my thoughts and ideas in class

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

My friends visit my home to play and spend time with me

1	2	3	4	5
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Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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I visit my friends' home to play and spend time with them

1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
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I play and spend time with my friends in our neighbourhood (outside of school and our homes)

1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
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In the last week, I have spent time in nature (e.g., parks, hiking etc.)

1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
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I get to spend time outside when I want

1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
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I am part of an online group or community

1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
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I am part of a club or group, like a sports team, band, theatre or youth group

1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neither agree nor disagree	4 Agree	5 Strongly agree
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Interviews/discussions (individual or with focus group)

Note the prompts are from Valued, Loved and Safe; and Participating open-statement/prompts.

General wellbeing – broad core statements

1. Describe the things you like about your neighbourhood.

[Prompts: Places where you feel comfortable and happy, Places where you enjoy spending your time, Places where you play, Places where you spend time with your friends, Places where you spend time with family, Places in nature you spend time in, People who care about you, People you enjoy spending time with, Local events and activities that you and your family have attended in the last year]

2. Describe the things you don't like about your neighbourhood.

[Prompt: move to next question – areas of change]

3. If I could change anything about your neighbourhood, what would it be?

[Prompts: same prompts from question 1, what would you change to make getting around your neighbourhood easier for you and your family]

4. When do you feel most happy in your neighbourhood?

5. When do you feel most happy at school?

6. When do you feel most happy at home?

Prompt from Material Basics open-statement/prompt

Domain-specific statements and prompts (Participating)

1. Describe what you do after school and/or on the weekend?

[Prompts: What are your hobbies?]

2. Describe things you like to do in your neighbourhood/[insert location]

[Prompts: In your neighbourhood...Places where you enjoy spending your time, Places where you play, Places where you spend time with your friends, Places where you spend time with family, Places in nature you spend time in, People you enjoy spending time with, Local events and activities that you and your family have attended in the last year]

3. What, in your life, are you the boss of?

[Further prompts: Where and who do you feel comfortable sharing your thoughts and ideas]

Slightly adapted prompt