

# Eight Best Practice Principles to support effective working in the arts with children and young people

These Best Practice Principles have been developed by Leeds City Council, ArtForms and CapeUK in consultation with young people, teachers, artists, cultural and voluntary organisations. Supported through the Find Your Talent cultural programme.

For more best practice resources please visit: [breezeculturenetwork.org](http://breezeculturenetwork.org)

Breeze and ABC Leeds: promoting high quality arts practice with children and young people.

The eight principles ask questions that can be considered by partners at each stage of your project. They are designed to enable collaborative working and support high quality cultural activity for children and young people.

# 1

## Share the vision and agree our aims and objectives

- Has the vision been shaped by young people?
- Has there been a conversation between partners about the needs and interests of participants?
- Why are we doing this and what do we want to achieve?

# 2

## Discuss the roles of all partners and how we will work together

- How can we use everyone's skills and experience to achieve something that none of us could do alone?
- Who is going to do what and how might roles change as the partnership develops?
- How will we keep everyone in the communication loop from planning through to review?

# 3

## Decide how we'll know that the activity has been a success

- What evidence will we collect during the activity so that we understand how it meets everyone's objectives?
- How can we do this creatively and how will young people be involved?
- Do we need to demonstrate the impact of the activity to anyone else?

# 4

## Be both well prepared and open to the unexpected

- Have we thought through all the practical issues?
- Are young people included in the planning to avoid assumptions about what they want, know or can do?
- Does our planning allow for exploration and experimentation?

# 5

## Ensure the safety and well-being of young people

- Have we agreed clear lines of responsibility and consistent approaches to safeguarding between all partners?
- Are we actively promoting the welfare of young people?
- Are we valuing everyone we work with and treating them with respect?

# 6

## Take a creative approach to all activities

- Is the balance between process and product right for what we want to achieve?
- Have we created a safe climate in which activity leaders and participants can take creative risks?
- Are we enabling young people to explore their own ideas and take the lead if they wish to?

# 7

## Reflect on the activity as it happens

- Are we listening and observing so that we can adjust our approach in light of feedback?
- Are we enabling young people to reflect on their experiences?

# 8

## Look back and identify our next steps

- What has been learnt and who should we share this with?
- What might be done differently if the activity were to be repeated?
- What will each participant take from this experience into their everyday cultural life?
- How can we help to progress the learning of everyone who took part?