

the reading agency

Participate: Creative Reading

Evaluating creative reading

Evaluation is integral to the planning of any event, activity, project or partnership. The aim of evaluation is to show the difference you are making to people's lives. Refer to the *Participate Evaluation Toolkit* in Making Change Happen for detailed guidance on how to evaluate young people's involvement.

Build evaluation into your planning from the start, using the *Participate Project Planning Template* in Making Change Happen. The following headings provide a useful framework for evaluating your creative reading activities:

People: outcomes which focus on creating the best possible reading experience; involving and consulting with young people, creating maximum access to resources and opportunities; reaching out to new users.

Places: outcomes that focus on creating a welcoming space that supports work with reading and young people. This can be inside or outside the library, and also online.

Partners: outcomes which focus on working with active partners to develop work with reading; influencing through participation in networks; drawing in new skills and creativity.

Planning: outcomes which focus on identifying how the work delivers government policy or LAA targets. For each of these outcomes there will be:

- Activities or indicators: what you will do to deliver the outcomes – the process and actions you engage in.
- Success criteria – the things that are happening for young people as a result of your activities

Collection of evidence: the tools and process to use to generate evidence. Build evidence gathering in at the planning stage and make sure you record names and ages and secure permission to use any quotes from young people.

Evidence gathering techniques include:

- Observation – casual: picking up comments and feedback
- Observation – systematic: observing an activity on a regular basis
- Observation – structured: working to a schedule; making comparisons over a period of time.

- Asking questions - questionnaires, interviews, and focus groups
- Numbers of people attending a particular activity and what this might infer
- Case studies: usually a combination of interview and observation

Active evaluation

After a session or event, create one or more statements that assess young people's changes in perceptions/ understanding/ attitudes, for example:

- I have changed my views about manga because of this session
- I have improved my skills in creating stories
- I have learned new ways of using mobile phones/computer software etc

Agree Disagree

Clear a space and ask participants to stand at the back of the room. Post numbers 1-5 on the wall.

Explain that you will read a series of statements aloud and that after hearing each one each participant should stand in front of the rating number that best matches his or her self-assessment of the activity you have just run.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Not sure
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

After lines form in from of various positions, invite participants to share why they have chosen that rating. Record the ratings and comments as assessment of the session. This exercise (called Agree Disagree) and many others like it, are included in the *Participate Evaluation Toolkit*, in Making Change Happen.