



THE CENTRE
FOR YOUTH
IMPACT

Part of YMCA George Williams College



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

QTURN

Practitioner Overview

The Youth Engagement Survey (YES)

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Practitioner Overview and Tool: The Youth Engagement Survey (YES)

Tool overview	
What it measures	<p>It is used to assess mental engagement (e.g. enjoyment, inclusion, attention, voice) during provision.</p> <p>Thoughts and feelings of enjoyment, inclusion, attention, and voice indicate active mental engagement that is expected to promote socio-emotional skill growth. Conversely, a lack of mental engagement is expected to prevent socio-emotional skill growth. YES scores tend to closely reflect the quality of provision, so these scores can be an especially efficient way to assess how well staff understand the socio-emotional skills of participating young people and adjust their practices to ‘meet young people where they are at’. It should be noted however, that the YES is not a measure of socio-emotional skills and should not be used to assess socio-emotional skill change.</p>
Who does the measuring	<p>It is a self-report survey, completed by young people. With some assistance (e.g., having a worker read and discuss each question), children as young as 6 years old can use the YES, but we recommend using the YES with young people ages 10 and older.</p>
When to use the tool	<p>Young people should complete the YES immediately after a provision session. If you want to understand the relationship between the quality of provision and young people’s engagement, it is best to have young people complete the YES on the same day that the session was observed and rated for quality (using the PQA). It may also be useful to collect mental engagement data using the YES at multiple time points (e.g. for provision planning or evaluation purposes).</p> <p>The YES can be used within the context of any type of provision and young people can fill out the YES after completing any session. Participating in one complete session is the only requirement for completing the YES.</p>
Method	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place each young person’s unique identification number on each survey. Right before the end of the session, distribute the surveys to the corresponding young people, and ask them to return it to you (or put it in a designated location) after they complete it. Ask young people to read the instructions and ask any questions they may have. While they complete the survey, encourage them to ask for clarification about the meaning of any words about which they are uncertain. Give them approximately 5 minutes to complete the survey. <p>Prompt. In this brief survey, we are asking you questions that will help us better understand how to create the best possible programme experiences for young people. We will keep all of your responses completely confidential, which means no one will ever know how you answered the questions. You are not required to answer any of the questions and can stop at any time.</p>	
Scoring	
<p>Young people’s responses to all items marked by “(R)” should be reverse scored, such that: 1 = 5, 2 = 4, 3 = 3, 4 = 2, 5 = 1. The mean of the response values for items 3-12 should be calculated to yield a single Mental Engagement score for each young person. If some item responses are missing, mean scores can be calculated as long as there are responses to at least 6 of the 10 items (but remember to calculate the mean</p>	

score based on the number of questions for which the young person actually responded). The resulting scale scores should range from 1 to 5.

Analysis

Data collected with the YES measurement tool can be entered into the YMCA George William College Data Portal. This will enable you to view change for individuals, cohorts and the results for your whole organisation. After calculating the YES total score, this information can be used to inform decisions about future training or provision planning (e.g. organisations with high percentages of young people scoring very low on the YES may decide to focus more closely on ways of conducting activities that young people will find more interesting). If the YES is also used as a follow-up measure, then the YES total scores can be used to assess changes in mental engagement from the baseline assessment to the follow-up assessment.