

# Engage and youth involvement

**Meeting Name:** Engage and youth involvement

**Facilitator Name:** Andrew

**Report created on:** September 16, 2010

**Description:** Debate about youth involvement with people from the Engage project, young kids from youth clubs in Århus and a few social workers..

**Homepage:** [www.watershed.co.uk/engage](http://www.watershed.co.uk/engage)

The remarks with red color are not a part of the debate itself, but written to explain the process for you who did not participate in the debate. Read more about the Zing System on the last page.

## 1. Engage

### 1. **Themes:** These are the headlines for the debates

1. Question: Youth involvement - Engaging young people in deciding the things that matter to them
2. Question: The use of IT to get involved
3. Question: Your questions

### 1.1. **Youth involvement - Engaging young people in deciding the things that matter to them**

In the first session of 2 questions the participants were divided in 5 groups. The groups were mixed with adults and kids. For each question 15 minutes of debate and 5 minutes of typing. The names Engage 1 - 5 represent the five groups and their answers.

1. Question: Why are you interested in being here and discussing youth involvement with us and what do you expect to get out of it?
2. Question: What level of engagement do you want to get involved in?

#### 1.1.1. **Why are you interested in being here and discussing youth involvement with us and what do you expect to get out of it?**

Group answers to question 1

1. Facilitator: How to type: 1) Turn on the keyboard on its backside. 2) Type. 3) Press F9 to send the text to the board.
2. Engage 2: We like to decide the activities and rules in our club and it gives us satisfaction and pride
3. Engage 2: Would like to be a youth worker in the future so it is important to learn how to involve the youth
4. Engage 1: hopefully the adults would listen to our ideas and opinions
5. Engage 5: Getting to know the perspective of an adult
6. Engage 4: AK was in true north camp and was inspired to get involved. Mia is curious about what happens, was asked to come and is interested in new things.
7. Engage 3: We are here, because we are interested in the decisions which are made regarding our space. We made the experience that our voice matters, so that's why we are involved.
8. Engage 4: What we get out of it is improving things for ourselves and our friends.
9. Engage 1: we want to see how the digital tool is used in a group debate by the young people
10. Engage 5: To learn how to make a difference and speak up. Also point out to the adults how they can create better activities for the youth.

### 1.1.2. **What level of engagement do you want to get involved in?**

#### And answers to question 2

1. Engage 3: Giving ideas for activities, projects and decisions, that's nice. Most of all, we like to be flexible and be able to be engaged in one thing, but maybe not in another.
2. Engage 4: Integration in the local area
3. Engage 5: Make better decisions for my area and provide ideas for youth activities
4. Engage 4: Later on would like to be more involved in changing things worldwide. Because we will have the experience from the local level.
5. Engage 5: Getting involved in shaping the youth center to their needs but without having to deal with budget responsibilities.
6. Engage 1: we will like to come with some ideas to activities and rules in the club, so not all responsibility is on us.
7. Engage 2: One club would like more freedom to decide the activities eg would like to do more group activities to build confidence and make stronger friendships between the young people. The other club really like having freedom to decide what they do and decide the rules but both like to have adults as backup if there is trouble!
8. Engage 3: We can't say yes to a long-term project, because we don't know what we are going to do, what we are interested in and what will happen in long-terms.
9. Engage 1: we would like to be involved from start to end, active engaged
10. Engage 2: It was really important for the young people to decide the opening times so it would fit around their activities. It is good to choose the workers so they have people that understand them.
11. Engage 4: If adults want real solution to a problem they have to tell us how to do it.

### 1.2. **The use of IT to get involved**

This was actually 2 divided questions, but under the process we decided to turn them into one. The kids remained in their groups, the adults changed groups. At the same time we reduced the groups to 4. Again 15 minutes of debate and 5 minutes of typing.

1. Question:: How do you communicate with your friends? - How do you want to use digital tools and how can we help you to use them?

#### 1.2.1. **How do you communicate with your friends? - How do you want to use digital tools and how can we help you to use them?**

1. Engage 4: iphone and facebook
2. Engage 4: schools could put the homework online, so since we are using the internet so much anyway, it is easier for us to remember.
3. Engage 2: young people communicate with facebook, e-mail (for school). gaming and text to communicate with friends. events on facebook are good.
4. Engage 3: we use sms, Facebook, Arto, Twitter, Skype, MSN and we making film on Mobilephone and Code language
5. Engage 1: For communication youth use 1)Facebook, 2)MSN, 3)SMS. 4)Skype.
6. Engage 3: More kids come to the activities if they use Facebook to communicate.
7. Engage 4: We inform ourselves about activities taking place in our clubs. We can see what it is about, who is coming and we can comment on them. Afterwards we decide if we are going to these activities.
8. Engage 1: Using digital tools to socialize, relax, get informed about youth activities. Sometimes not exactly the same person online as in real life
9. Engage 2: the adults need to be using digital tools more so we can communicate with them. if teachers could use email more to communicate that would be good, eg for homework or important messages.
10. Engage 3: Is easy to use Mobilephone because you always have on you.

### 1.3. **Your questions**

At this point the adults were asked to step out and the kids formed 1 group to decide a question to ask the adults. Then the adults were divided into 3 groups to debate and answer the question. The kids also joined the groups to advice the adults. Question and debate here:

1. Question: How would you like to involve us with digital tools and how will you improve that?

#### 1.3.1. **How would you like to involve us with digital tools and how will you improve that?**

1. Engage 1: Work in partnership with the youth in order to make the events and activities posted on fb more attractive (headlines, pics, movies etc)
2. Engage 3: raising awareness about privacy and security settings. some youngsters came across it, but not all of them.
3. Engage 3: ask young peoples to teach us (adults) how to use their digital tools.
4. Engage 2: Use FB to inform and have polls created by them where they can vote. Also make a subscription channel for getting informed about activities with messages over FB. Have member cards to sign up to activities relevant to them, see who else is attending and on which day, even pay for events with it or other online fees

Some information about the Zing System:

Content:

1 facilitator computer connected to a projector.

A number (that match the amount of groups) of wireless keyboards.

Zing software that connects everything on one screen.

The debates are controlled by the facilitator computer. Each group joining the debate have their own keyboard. Each keyboard is represented with a typing box on the large screen, so everybody can type and add answers at the same time. The group keyboards are limited, so they can only type plain text and add the text to the board pressing F9. All other functions are disabled.

The system can be used in various ways, but in this debate we started each question with a short presentation followed by 15 minutes of debate with the keyboards turned off. Then the groups have 5 minutes to type their answers to the board. After each session the answers were debated in the large group, before next session was brought up.

More information about Zing can be found here: <http://www.anyzing.com/>

And on Wikipedia too: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zing\\_Technologies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zing_Technologies)