

## Hocus Focus

This tool helps children/young people discuss and evaluate the activities of a program/service and make constructive suggestions for improvement

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Prepare your own list of about half a dozen topics for discussion, related to key process or outcomes for the year's work. For example, topics you could ask about include:
  - Program length
  - Program snacks
  - Program space
  - Knowledge on a subject
  - Behaviour change as a result of the program
2. Take a group of 6 young people to a quiet area for this discussion.
3. Explain to them why they have been asked to take part, and the 'rules' for the discussion.
4. Begin the discussion by introducing the topic, and then try to allow the young people to make their own comments/share memories about this topic. The aim is to get a fairly free-flowing discussion going. The facilitator should avoid dominating or leading the discussion.
5. Ask youth to talk about things that they think worked well or helped them under this topic.
6. Move on to discuss things that they think did not help or work so well.
7. Finish the topic by asking them if they have any other ideas for improving the work/activity under discussion.
8. Repeat the discussion for each topic (approximately 5 minutes each)
9. As the young people talk, the RA should aim to write down some of the key points. If desired, it may be possible to tape record the discussion, but only with their assent, and the informed consent of the young people and their parents (if they are less than 16).

### WHO IS INVOLVED?

One research assistant and groups of 6 young people

### WHAT DO I NEED?

- A notepad to record participants thoughts and ideas

### WHEN SHOULD THIS BE DONE?

Towards the end of a term or year

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

30 minutes