

**Manipulation**

**Decoration**

**Tokenism**

**Youth Assigned, But Informed**

When adults design something on behalf of children, ask for a little input from children, but give no feedback.

When adults use children or youth to bolster their own cause, without adults taking the time to help them understand the cause. This is one rung up from manipulation since adults are not pretending that they have involved the young person at all.

When youth are apparently given a voice, but in fact have little or no choice about the subject, and have little or no opportunity to formulate their own opinions.

When roles are created for young people that are important, both functionally and symbolically. They are given responsibility and freedom to take on these roles, and often the young person takes some pride in the work they have done contributing to the overall goal.

**Youth Consulted and Informed**

**Adult Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth**

**Youth Initiated and Directed**

**Youth Initiated, Shared Decisions with Adults**

Young people sometimes work as consultants for adults planning a program or activity. This can occur in a manner that genuinely involves the young person. The “project” is designed and run by adults, but youth understand the process, their opinions are treated seriously, and they are given feedback and further opportunities to refine plans.

Although the projects at this level are initiated by adults, and tend to remain in the hands of adults, planning and decision making is shared with young people.

When adults stand back and let youth, often working in small teams (or patrols!), go about planning and running their own game, activity, event, or big adventure. Adults allow youth to make mistakes and resolve problems themselves, and know when to step in to offer their support.

Contemporary language calls this **intergenerational dialogue** and describes an environment where an inclusive mix of younger and older people work together to achieve a goal. It is an environment where the wisdom and experience of older generations are in balance with the enthusiasm and alternative thinking of younger generations.