

*kids***in** **motion** **brainstorming session**

step 1: *List needs your kids have noticed as they've gone about daily life.*

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step 2: *Have your kids list their skills or strengths that could potentially contribute to addressing the needs on your group's list.*

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- _____
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- _____

Are your kids having trouble thinking of ideas?
Try this:

- You can stimulate ideas by bringing up things you've seen kids concerned about or issues you've seen within your group. Sometimes just giving concrete examples from kids' lives can get ideas flowing.
- Challenge kids to keep their eyes and ears open over a one- or two-week period. Tell them not to filter their ideas but to write down anything that seems like a need, as this can lead the way to new ideas and prompt ideas for solutions to overlooked issues. You can collect the ideas and filter any that may be off base.
- Consult parents or guardians about needs they've seen in their children's schools or neighborhoods.



Are your kids having trouble connecting their skills to the needs in your list?
Try this:

- Have kids simply list areas where they're strong. You can help them make the connections. As connections become apparent to you, explain the thought process that helped you reach the connection. After a few connections, kids will be able to start copying your process and making connections on their own.
- Accept all kids' ideas (unless offensive or inappropriate) regardless of whether they seem to connect. Allowing kids to think aloud and share their strengths will give them the confidence to take chances and in turn reach useful solutions.
- Encourage parents or guardians to discuss ideas throughout the following week, as families can have insight into kids' strengths. Giving parents input will help them to be on board with the ideas you end on.

step 3: *Clean up your list.*

(Keep it simple.) Choose ideas that your kids are motivated about and have the skills to address. Remember, you don't have to do all your ideas right away, but you can keep a bank of ideas for future use.

These are the needs we think we can address:

EXAMPLE:

Need: Younger children struggling to learn how to read.

Idea: We can start a reading club that meets once a month to read with kids in first grade.

Need: _____

Idea: _____

Need: _____

Idea: _____

Need: _____

Idea: _____

Need: _____

Idea: _____

Need: _____

Idea: _____

step 4: *Prioritize the ideas on your list.*

Maybe one of your ideas won't work in the current season, or maybe you want to get started on an idea children are excited about. Number the ideas in Step 3, and write dates next to ideas you're sure you want to implement.

step 5: *Start with one idea. Determine the specifics.*

Idea: _____

Goal: _____

What specific things do you hope to accomplish?

Timeline: _____

When do you plan to start? Is this a one-time event or something that will require multiple gatherings? For multiple gatherings, how often will you meet and what is your planned end-date?

Location: _____

Do you need an event location or a gathering area to prep or carry out your goal? What do you need to do to ensure that place will be available for your use?

Plan: _____

What are the details for what will be happening?

Roles: _____

What roles can you give kids? How can you make your kids the major players in the planning and implementation of their idea? Adults can help, too, but you want kids to be able to take leadership roles in idea formation, organization, etc.

step 6: *Evaluate each plan or event.*

● Did you accomplish your goal?

● What worked well?

● What parts could use some improvement?

● Would you want to carry out the same process again? If so, when?

● Did any new needs rear their heads in the process of carrying out this idea?
