

Engaging Young People in the Repair Café Movement

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Toss it? No way!

Topics covered by

- Define the problem
- Break down into age groups
- Things to consider
- How to create contacts with local community groups
- Suggested activities



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Define the Problem

The UK Repair Café Conference in June 2023 had 3 open round table sessions on how to engage youth in the Repair Cafe Movement.

It was acknowledged that young people are more aware of the causes and effects of climate change and are looking for ways in which they can contribute to reducing consumption. Encouraging young people to be involved in the Repair Café movement was a positive move.

It was also acknowledged that the fix and repair skills lay with the older generation, and we needed to seek ways in which we could pass on these fixing and repair skills to the younger generation in a fun and interactive way.



Toss it? No way!

Break down into age groups

We also realised that although young people was a generic term, we had to break it into smaller groups by age as their learning styles and needs are different.

Suggested categorisation for youth

- **Under 10s** -Require 1 to 1 interaction and close supervision
- **Between 10 and 17** – need to be engaged in projects that are of interest to them and could learn to fix their own items
- **Young people over 18** – We did discuss young people over 18 and suggested that they could work alongside fixers as ‘apprentices’ and offer to fix under the supervision of a more experienced fixer



Toss it? No way!

Things to consider

- Create a Repair Cafe Safeguarding policy and ensure that no young person under 18 is left alone with an adult at any time.
- Risk assessment if young people are assisting in the Repair café in any way
- For 16-year old and above, run an apprenticeship scheme where a young person can work alongside a more experienced fixer and learn from them
- Insurance needs to cover the presence of young people if they are helping in repairing
- We had a lot of discussion on whether DBS checks and the level of checks were a requirement when working with young people and opinions varied and we came to no conclusion.



Toss it? No way!

How to get create a contact in the community

We also acknowledged that although it would be great to work with schools in practice it was difficult to create a relationship with schools through hard-pressed teachers who although enthusiastic, rarely had time to move forward with out of school activities

Suggestions were

- Ask to talk to the community engagement officer of the school or college
- Approach the school Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Approach the organiser of Duke of Edinburgh awards
- Organisers of local scout and guides groups to get badges
- Organisers of youth clubs



Toss it? No way!

Suggested activities to engage young people 1

- Run workshops fixing items that young people are interested in for example
- Toys, bikes, fixing cricket pads, skateboards, Xboxes, Switches
- Run art projects for example have a competition to create posters or artwork for web sites for Repair Cafe advertising or create a model to show what Repair Cafes do. (Research into what Repair Cafes do)
- Make bird boxes or bug hotels with young people, these could be partially prepared and require making up or could be created from scratch using old fence panels, tree stumps old boxes (help environment and recycle)



Toss it? No way!

Suggested activities to engage young people 2

- Encourage young people to buy items from charity shops and then run a workshop on how to alter and repair items and make them fashion items
- Run workshops to alter prom dresses, jackets, trousers.
- Use family members to help in the Repair Cafe as general 'runners' or to run the book shop 'make me an offer' table of donated items
- Help ensure that the volunteers have refreshments and tools they require and engage with the visitors



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