



A children's guide to making art with children

You've got an idea for a project but you don't know if it will work. Who better to ask than the experts? In a workshop facilitated by artists from [Drop Bear Theatre](http://www.dropbeartheatre.com/)¹, six children told us what they consider to be good participatory arts practice and why. We hope you find their advice useful. This is what they said:

- We want the full, authentic art experience, not a watered-down version. Don't tell us about your amazing work and get our hopes up if we are not going to be doing something equally exciting.
- Keep your introductory remarks brief. Focus more on making and doing.
- Make us offers, give us choices, and let us know what we are being asked to do. Don't put us on the spot (e.g. in audience participation).
- Give everyone a turn. Let children lead, demonstrate and learn from each other.
- Have fun and be up for a laugh. You can tell jokes and be funny ... but not too funny (because it's weird when adults act like kids).
- Include surprises, mysteries, challenges and strong emotions. Most of us really enjoy being genuinely scared. We are looking for something new and interesting.
- Make the boring bits (e.g. reflection) into games, so they're more fun.
- Make your artwork internally consistent because we can tell when something doesn't quite make sense.

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¹ <http://www.dropbeartheatre.com/>