

## Child First - some simple practical creative ideas...

Creative methods/activities helped to break down power imbalance and barriers, as well as giving children something physical to do whilst we discussed ideas together.

We used team building exercises and challenges with our **Project Reference Group** of justice-involved children, which we joined in too. These exercises facilitated collaboration between members of the group as well as the between children and the researchers, enabling a shared experience. Activities were fun and engaged everyone in thinking, problem solving and working together, before exploring different elements of the research.

**Interviews with participant children** were enhanced by using creative activities e.g. **Would you rather?/Have you ever? questions, squeeze stress balls, Lego/Playdough challenges, circle cards and coloured pens for writing rap lyrics.** Offering children a **squeeze stress ball or fidget toy** while speaking supported positive communication.

### Icebreakers

**Groupwork** - use a soft ball to throw between everyone - whoever has the ball introduces themselves and answers a question.

#### Example Questions:

Favourite band/artist

Favourite food

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would that be and why?

Favourite pet/animal

#### Would you rather?/Have you ever? questions:

Would you rather be super strong or super-fast?

Would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?

Would you rather be a villain or a superhero?

Have you ever fallen asleep in class?

Have you ever got on the wrong bus/train?

Have you ever seen a dog run through your school?

### Group Exercises

**The spaghetti and marshmallow tower challenge.** For details see: [Spaghetti and marshmallow tower challenge: it's fun learning! \(skillpacks.com\)](https://www.skillpacks.com)

**Build a Paper Tower that you can balance an egg on.** For details see: [Egg Tower Challenge \(aber.ac.uk\)](https://www.aber.ac.uk)

**The egg drop challenge.** [The Egg Drop Challenge: A Gravity-Defying STEM Adventure \(littlestemlab.com\)](https://www.littlestemlab.com)

### Creative Materials

**Lego and Playdough activity** - using a limited number of pieces to represent ideas, choose 12 bricks and build something to represent safety/community/fun/work/support/friendship

**Graffiti art** – using paints/coloured pens/collage, create a picture to communicate a message about what's important to you.

**Making, using music/rap writing** – develop lyrics to express how you feel



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