

Gaining Another Perspective for Evaluation: Focusing on Children Participation in Asset-Based Community Development Capacity Inventories and Asset Mapping

Denise Krohn Ramón, University of the Incarnate Word

WHAT IS ABCD?

- A community driven strategy to leverage resources
- Focuses on existing strengths of a group and the abilities of individuals
- Includes systems thinking
- Involves various tools and processes
- Relationship building is key

WHY CONSIDER CHILDREN PARTICIPATION?

- Children have the abilities, voice, and gifts to create asset maps with capacity inventories with appropriate accommodations, tools, and guidance
- Engaging children in community evaluation instills a greater potential for them to be civically engaged and to become community builders and leaders

ABSTRACT

An overview of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD; Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993) is given, while emphasizing the role of children. The use of capacity inventories and its implementation to create asset maps is highlighted. In order to push innovative evaluation practice, it is suggested that a specific child-oriented exemplar capacity inventory is developed using Kretzmann and McKnight's 1993 Capacity Inventory. Additionally, a specific list with suggestions on how to modify for children is recommended. Lastly, it is proposed that children can better identify skills and develop asset maps in a manner that they can understand and relate to.

HOW DO ABCD AND EVALUATION CONNECT?

- Comprehensive evaluation is used throughout the ABCD strategy process
- Capacity inventories is an evaluation tool for asset mapping, community building, and generating sustainable development

DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The capacity inventory was designed to be adaptable--Suggestions for change include adding a section relevant to school activities and a specific list regarding modifications and accommodations to address children
- An adapted capacity inventory unlocks evaluation's ability to be more interconnected, sustainable, and equitable

