



‘Designed by children, with children, for children.’

Co-production: the nine top tips

#1 Do the groundwork

Take time to establish co-production means to you and agree your shared ethos. Look at how others have done it and pick the approach that suits you best.

#2. Build your team

Forming your team will depend on the project but working across departments and including external partners is essential. The minimum team size is two, the maximum up to you!

#3. Work with experts

This important stage is often omitted but working with experts helps you get things right more efficiently and quickly than trying to work it out yourself.

#4. Identify and connect with your target audience

Take time to connect with suitable partner groups to help you tackle the job and get the best results. Be determined to get the right partner – not someone almost right because it feels easier.

#5. Create the best enabling environment

Choosing the setting for your co-production sessions will help you get the best results. Think about accessibility and listen to your partners when they tell you how to make sure they feel safe.

#6. Communication doesn't need words!

‘Through play they show us.’ Traditional consultation approaches can be overly dependent on written communication but MiniBrum proved that there are other ways to get the message over.

#7. Record, reflect, review, revise

Regularly take time together to review the information you are collecting, reflect on what you find out, how it supports the project ethos, and revise your approach where necessary.

#8. Celebrate and share success!

Co-production requires of all partners trust, commitment and hard work. It’s important for your ongoing relationships to celebrate achievements and share successes as you go.

#9. It's an ongoing process

If your service is fully committed to co-production as a way of improving relationships with diverse local communities, don’t stop once the new gallery is open or the activity programme delivered. There’s so much more to be gained...