

Carousel Brainstorming

Standards

ELACC3SL1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

- a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
- b. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
- c. Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.
- d. Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

Overview

Carousel brainstorming is one technique you can use to generate ideas about the goals and design of your youth garden.

Materials:

- flip chart paper
- markers of various colors
- dot stickers

1. Begin by identifying different questions your group needs to answer. They may include:

- What are the goals of our garden program?
- Who will use the garden?
- What elements do we want to include in the garden?
- How will the garden fit with existing activities/our curriculum?
- Where will we put the garden?
- What resources will we need to start the garden?
- Who should we contact to help support our garden?

2. Invite everyone interested in helping start your youth garden to a brainstorming meeting.

3. Place large sheets of chart paper around the room and label each with a different question that needs to be answered.

- 4.** Break into small groups. Give each group a colored marker and send them to one of the questions on the wall. Give participants 2 minutes to brainstorm responses and record them on the chart paper. When the 2 minutes are up, have groups move to the next question to read what's written and add their own ideas. Continue until each group has had a chance to visit each question.
- 5.** When groups return to their original charts, give them 5 to 10 minutes to review and summarize the ideas, then take turns reporting to the full group. Are there any questions you haven't covered in this process that need to be answered?
- 6.** You will not be able to deliver on all ideas generated through brainstorming. To prioritize, give each participant five to 10 dot stickers for each question, and ask them to place the dots beside the features or ideas they think are most important. They can use all their dots on one item or spread them out across several suggestions.
- 7.** Ask for volunteers to form groups to research each priority item. For instance, if one question was "Where will we put the garden?" have a group determine which of the suggested locations are viable options. Ask groups to report their findings at the next meeting.

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/activity/planning-activity-carousel-brainstorming>