



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



Practical Strategies for Real-World Youth Encounters Reducing Risk and Improving Outcomes

Youth encounters are among the most complex and high-risk interactions professionals face. Adolescents and teens process authority, communication, and consequences differently than adults. Without developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed approaches, routine encounters can escalate quickly, creating risk for youth, families, agencies, and the people trying to help them. **Youth Engagement Strategies (YES)** equips professionals with practical, developmentally informed strategies to improve communication, reduce escalation, and strengthen outcomes.

THE STRATEGIC VALUE

- Reduces organizational risk in youth-related situations
- Modernizes youth approaches using adolescent development science
- Strengthens professionalism, consistency, and defensibility

OPERATIONAL APPLICATION

- Practical guidance that keeps situations more controlled and calm
- Rapport-building strategies that improve cooperation and lower tension
- Tactics professionals can apply during high-pressure encounters

Developed by experienced law enforcement, juvenile justice, and victim services research leaders

WHAT YES PROVIDES

- ✓ Developmentally appropriate communication and decision making strategies
- ✓ Customized, scenario-based training grounded in real-world, local encounters
- ✓ Policy, leadership, and operational alignment to support lasting change

WHO YES SERVES

Law Enforcement | Schools | Courts | Healthcare | Community Organizations | Faith Partners

“Youth Engagement Strategies is a **good interrupter**—it helps break the cycle between juvenile delinquency and later adult criminal behavior.” - *Chief Derrick Cannon, Gary (Indiana) Police Department*

— **Minimizing Risk, Building Trust** —