

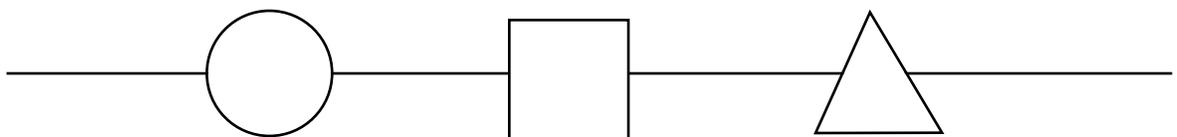
## poetry in motion: identifying the characteristics of effective youth—adult partnerships

- purpose**
- To engage participants in a structured conversation to set the tone for effective youth—adult partnerships
  - To get ideas out on the table and give participants a chance to be heard

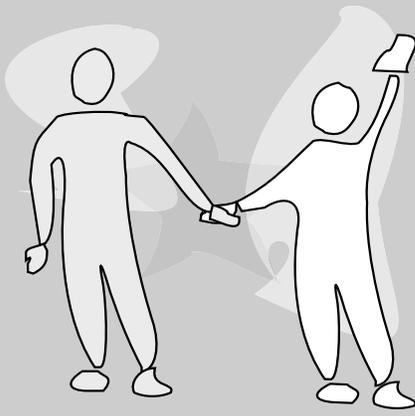
**time** 45 minutes

**group size** 20 to 30 participants

**materials** Three or four sets of Poetry in Motion cards



**prepare ahead** Create three or four sets of the Poetry in Motion cards. Each set should have 20 cards (one word or symbol per card). Use brightly colored paper cut into shapes (e.g., circles, triangles, or squares), and write the words in large, bold letters with marker. The 20 cards are as follows:



**a  
adult  
and  
are  
bigger**

**creativity  
community  
expanding  
harnessing  
healthy**

**in  
include  
of  
partnership  
talent**

**the  
to  
together  
youth  
!**

### introduction

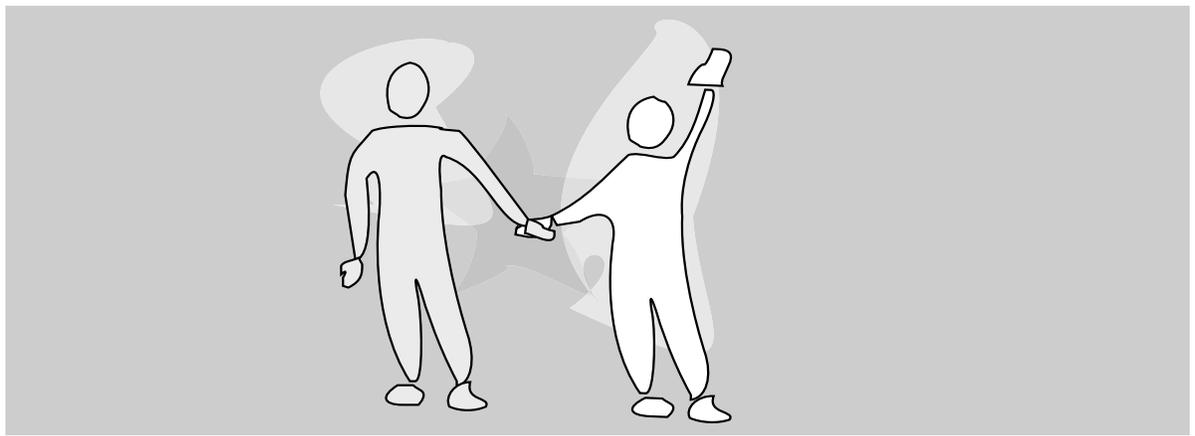
Ask participants to think about a time when they were part of a successful partnership:

- What do you remember?
- How did it feel?
- What made it work?

**trainer note:** It is important that each participant speak. The trainer could ask the first question in a “round,” going around the table so that everyone sees him- or herself as a participant. Subsequent questions can be addressed to the group and answered randomly by whoever volunteers. The trainer should be affirming, stay neutral, practice active listening, and keep the conversation flowing quickly, sensing when the group is ready to move along to the next question.

Next, ask the participants to think about that same feeling, but visualize a youth–adult partnership. Ask, “What are some of the characteristics that are important to you?”

## section two: foundations for youth-adult partnerships



Note the answers to this question on a flip chart. When all the ideas are written on the flip chart, ask the group the following questions:

- Which ideas stand out as most important?
- Which will be hardest to achieve?
- Which ideas are you most interested in working toward?

At the end of the conversation, tell the participants that they are going to do a “word scramble” to help them organize the concepts they have been discussing into a statement reflecting their ideas.

### **step one**

Divide the participants into small groups of three or four participants. Give each group a set of the Poetry in Motion cards.

### **step two**

On the wall, post the following statement:

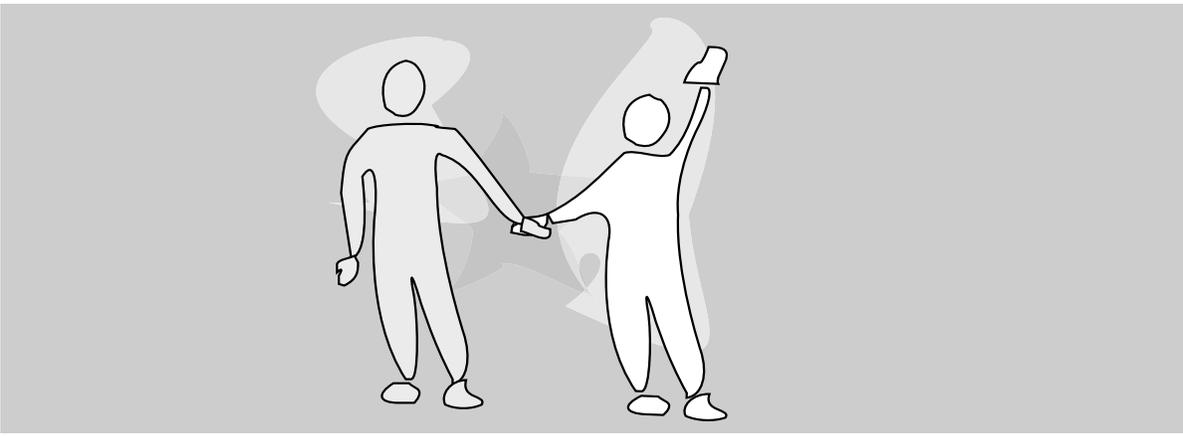
“Effective youth–adult partnerships. . . .”

Ask each group to arrange its word cards to complete the sentence using all the cards. Give each group 5 to 10 minutes to complete the task. When all the groups are finished, ask a representative from each group to present the group’s sentence. The Poetry in Motion sentences can be posted on the wall or on a sticky wall.

### **step three**

In the large group, ask the group the following questions:

- What common themes do you see?
- What insights have you had that you want to be mindful of as you work in youth–adult partnerships?



### **reflection and discussion**

Ask the group to make a commitment: “As you move forward in building a youth–adult partnership, what are you committed to?” Elicit a few statements from the group, and write them on the flip chart. If all the participants are together, ask the group whether everyone agrees with those commitments.