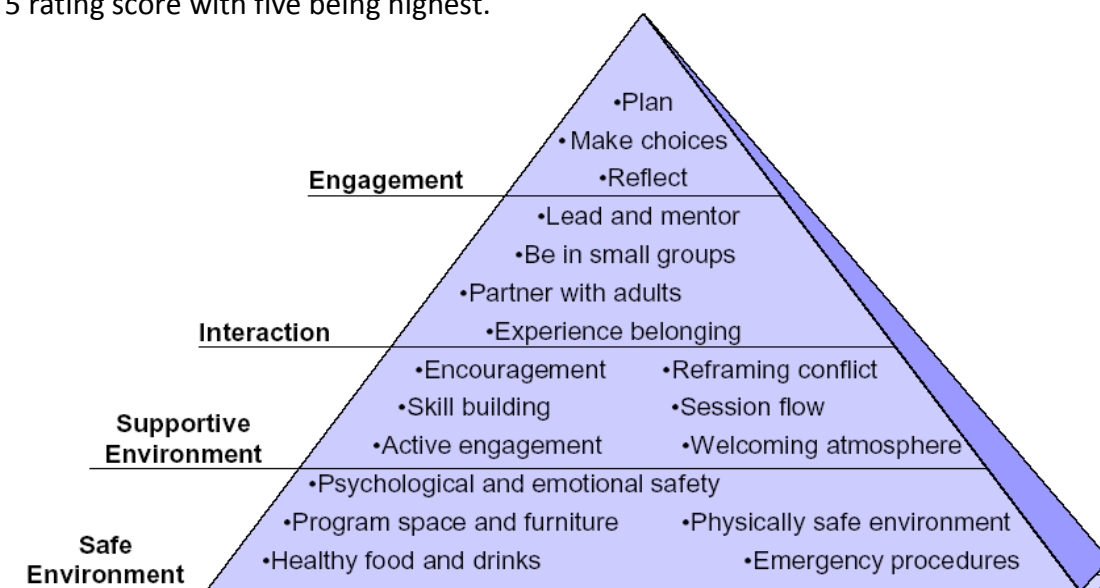


YOUTH PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT (YPQA) OVERVIEW

The YPQA:

- Is a research based, validated tool.
- Is used for evaluation and assessment, staff learning, and data driven planning.
- Emphasizes engaging youth as the most important goal of program quality.
- Highlights that safe environments are foundational but not enough to affect youth outcomes.
- Tool focuses on *point of service* – where youth and adults interact in programs.
- Uses a 1 – 3 – 5 rating score with five being highest.



I. Safe Environment

- A. Cultural competency
- B. The physical environment is safe and free of health hazards.
- C. Emergency/safety procedures
- D. Program space and materials
- E. Food and drink

II. Supportive Environment

- F. Program leaders provide a welcoming atmosphere.
- G. Session flow is planned, presented, and paced for youth.
- H. Activities support active engagement.
- I. Program leaders support youth in building new skills.
- J. Program leaders support youth with encouragement.
- K. Program leaders encourage youth to manage feelings and resolve conflicts appropriately.

III. Interaction

- L. Youth have opportunities to develop a sense of belonging.
- M. Youth have opportunities to participate in small groups.
- N. Youth have opportunities to practice leadership skills.
- O. Youth have opportunities to partner with adults.

IV. Engagement

- P. Youth have opportunities to set goals and make plans.
- Q. Youth have opportunities to make choices based on their interests.
- R. Youth have opportunities to reflect.