

## ***How will we know when our group session is participant-centered?***



***We'll see it in...***

***What will we see, hear, or feel when it's truly participant centered?***

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... the environment.	Learning begins at the front desk with a warm welcome. The whole environment announces that WIC is an education-oriented organization that supports healthy families. It is inviting; not business as usual!
... the kind of information given.	The information offered is brief, snappy, powerful, and relevant. It represents the essence of the topic, the fundamentals that are helpful for good decision making.
... the way information is offered.	Big visuals, simple props, hands-on activities are used when possible – making the new information understandable to everyone, regardless of background.
... the sequence of the learning.	Participants connect the topic to their own lives, apply their new knowledge, and have the opportunity to transfer their new learning into the future.
... staff facilitation skills.	Participants are engaged and made to feel safe from the very beginning of the session. Facilitators allow time for participants to respond, they affirm and incorporate contributions into the conversation.
... the way questions are asked.	No more right and wrong answers. Facilitators give good information and then ask open-ended and probing questions so participants can make something of it for themselves.
... the voices of participants.	Every voice is heard – pair share or small groups are used when appropriate. Participants do at least 50% of the talking and “doing,” starting early in the session.
... the way the conversation flows.	The conversation stays on target and is gently redirected as softer voices are encouraged to speak and stronger voices are encouraged to listen.
... the spirit of the room.	The atmosphere is positive. It is a comfortable place to be. It's fun!

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