

TOOLS FOR ENGAGING CHILDREN IN THEIR COURT PROCEEDINGS

In an effort to encourage and increase meaningful participation of foster children in their permanency hearings, the NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children published Tools for Engaging Children in Their Court Proceedings in 2008. The handbook is meant to serve as a guide for Judges, Advocates and Child Welfare Professionals involved with children in court, providing an “in-depth look at the developmental aspects of children in the context of their court proceedings”, and to further ensure that children’s voices are heard and that their perspectives are considered during their court experience.

The handbook highlights the developmental stages of school-age children (ages 5-20 years), provides tips on how to engage children in their court proceedings, and offers a series of age-appropriate questions. Consequently, the booklet is a very useful informational tool for age-appropriate interviewing of children in any proceeding.

To learn more about the NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for the Children, see <http://www.nycourts.gov/justiceforchildren>. To view the publication in its entirety, choose the publications link, and then click on Tools for Engaging Children in Their Court Proceedings (2008), or choose the youth participation link, and then click on Access the Handbook. **We encourage you to view this publication.**