A tool to set clear expectations of what elements of an evidence-based activity can be adapted without losing fidelity to the proven model.

Core and Peripheral Elements of a Violence Against Children Prevention Activity

A worksheet to facilitate discussion-to visualize what is core to an activity and what is peripheral when scaling up in order to preserve fidelity.

There are some elements and principles in every evidence-based activity that must be present for the activity to perform as intended. Change any of those elements or principles, and you may not be faithful to the proven model. Some adaptations are necessary, while others may create a new activity altogether. Help Implementing Partners succeed by communicating what is core and what is peripheral.

AVAILABLE FORMATS: The worksheets included here are meant for printing at A4 size. Visit the Guide's website for downloadable interactive (fillable) PDF worksheets, alternate languages and alternative formats.
inspire-strategies.org/adaptationandscale

How to use this tool

1 Choose an activity of focus, and consult any available research suggesting what proved critical to the activity. If possible, consult individuals who have worked on the model activity.

2 As a group or individually, identify what aspects of the activity are considered core. Write these in the inner "core elements" circle.

3 Now consider other aspects of the activity that can be changed without affecting the nature of the outcomes. Write these in the outer "peripheral elements" circle.

4 Provide justification for why each of the core and peripheral elements are included as such. Discuss as a group, and build consensus using the research.

5 Finally, draft a document communicating these elements and the justification to Implementing Partners.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

○ Core elements are likely to be connected to key outcomes. Look to the outcomes/results you expect from an activity for hints of what is core.

○ Reference your Context of Implementation Analysis (tool 3A) and Ending Violence Against Vhildren Activity Implementation and Evidence Profile (tool 2B) for additional evidence.

○ Reach out to the originators of a model activity to provide additional insight.

REMINDER...FEEL FREE TO ADAPT THIS
TOOL IN ANY WAY THAT WORKS FOR
YOUR TEAM AND YOUR CONTEXT!

Core and Peripheral Elements of a Violence Against Children Prevention Activity

1. Choose an activity to prevent violence against children focus on.

2. What are all the specific elements of this activity? A few areas to consider are:

   - Quality assurance / supervision and coaching
   - Values / principles
   - Services, activities, and initiatives
   - Human resources
   - Training
   - Commodities
   - Finance
   - Information systems, monitoring, and evaluation

3. Discuss which elements you consider to be core. If a specific element were changed or eliminated, would it fundamentally change the outcomes of the activity? If yes, these may be core elements.

4. Write or place elements that are core to the activity within the circle.

5. Place (write) elements outside of the circle that are peripheral and can be adapted or removed without sacrificing the outcomes.

6. If you did this exercise individually, come together as a group and find agreement. Document the core elements.

Example:

For 3-6 months total

30-90 minutes each session

PERIPHERAL ELEMENTS

Dosage

CORE ELEMENTS

Groups meet at least once a week

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN PREVENTION ACTIVITY
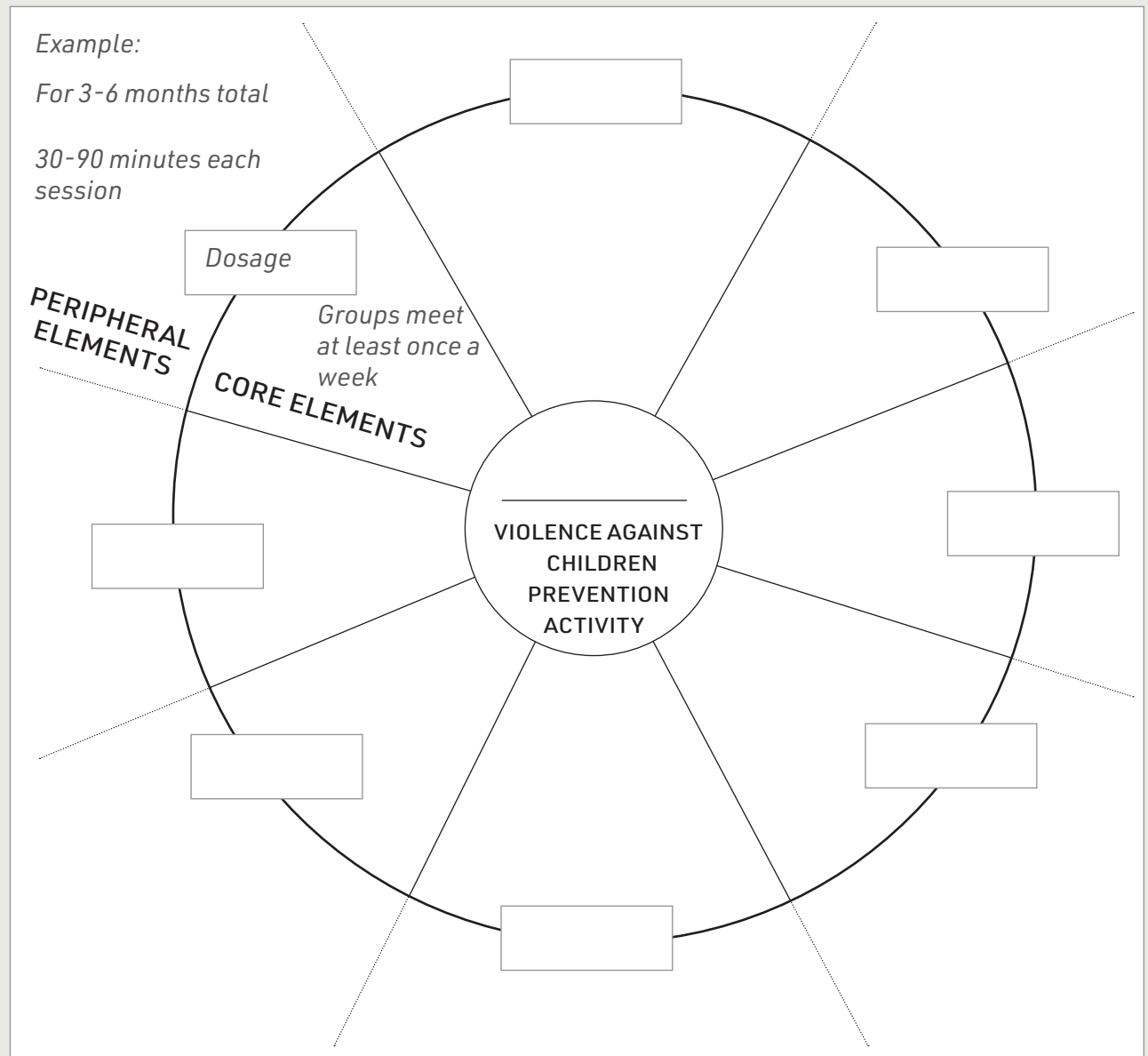
STEP 2: EXPLAIN

1. Build a case for your decisions. Look at the evidence base for this activity (tool 2B), and input from a model site (tool 3A) to support your placement of elements as core or peripheral.

2. *If there is debate among your group about a specific element, talk to the original designer to double-check your assumptions.*

3. You might need more boxes for core and peripheral elements. *Duplicate this page as necessary.*

CORE Using the results from Part 1 of this tool, what are the core elements that must be maintained in scale up?

ELEMENT:
....

Why MUST this element *be maintained*?

ELEMENT:
....

Why MUST this element *be maintained*?

ELEMENT:
....

Why MUST this element *be maintained*?

ELEMENT:
....

Why MUST this element *be maintained*?

CORE: An element is core when removing it or changing it significantly reduces the effectiveness of the activity. Core elements should be included with as much fidelity as possible.

PERIPHERAL: An element is peripheral when adapting it to the context, or removing it, improves or does not seriously impair an activity from achieving the expected outcomes. Peripheral elements may be extensively modified to fit new contexts.

PERIPHERAL Using the results from Part 1 of this tool, choose elements that might need to be adapted, or could be left out entirely without significantly changing the activity.

ELEMENT:
....

Why is this element *adaptable*?

ELEMENT:
....

Why is this element *adaptable*?

STEP 3: COMMUNICATE TO IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS

The National Coordination Mechanism guides the scale up of activities to end violence against children. Communicating expectations about fidelity and adaptation helps implementing organizations know how they can best respond to their context while staying evidence-based in their practice. Setting the same expectations for all implementing partners for a specific activity will ensure consistency and quality.

In writing to the Implementing Partner be sure to:

1. Explain the difference between "core" and "peripheral" elements.
2. Share your list of core and peripheral elements for their activity.
3. Explain that the National Coordination Mechanism will be monitoring to ensure that activities include core elements.

Now What?

YOU SHOULD NOW HAVE...

- A visual graphic of the core and peripheral elements of the activity
- Justifications for the categorization of these elements
- A document communicating what is core and what is peripheral for key actors

Act and apply

Does the action plan raise the issue of core elements or principles? Should it?

Are National Coordination Mechanism + Resource Team members clear about the essential elements of each activity? Have they developed a monitoring approach to track those elements?

RELATED TOOLS:

- *Tool 2B*: Ending Violence Against Children Activity Implementation and Evidence Profile
- *Tool 3A*: Context of Implementation Analysis