

Tips for Getting Started with Kid-Friendly Activism

1. Explain: “Activism is the act of bringing attention or awareness to issues or topics that you feel passionately about in hopes of bringing about change. Your passion is something that you feel strongly about; something you know really needs to change and that you want to change for the better. That’s where your activism can start.”
2. Ask each family member, “What do you feel passionate about?”
3. As a family, decide which passion you will work on first.
4. Educate yourselves on the topic and decide what you hope to accomplish, naming both short– and long-term goals.
5. Create visuals like posters, vision boards, or post-it notes so that you can see the difference your family is making.



Categories of Activism

Based on time, energy and effort that are needed in the engagement

Category I:

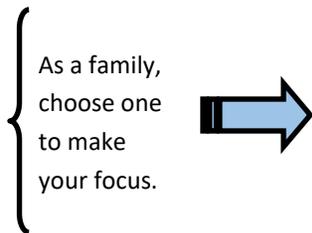
- **Volunteering:** helping to meet people’s immediate individual needs on a short-term basis 
- **Awareness/Consciousness-Raising:** displaying tokens of support or participating in an event in support of a cause 
- **Internet Activism:** raise awareness, counter misinformation, and make space for underrepresented voices 

Category II:

- **Letter Writing and Petitions:** write a letter with your concerns and possible solutions to a person who can help make changes 
- **Demonstrations:** join a gathering of a large group of people for a common cause 
- **Boycott:** refuse to buy products or services from a company or organization to force social change 

Sample process:

Example Family Members: What are my passions?
I want to help homeless people.
I want to help manatees because they are endangered.
I want to close the educational gap for people of color.



What can we learn about homelessness?	Examples of Category 1 Activism	Examples of Category 2 Activism
Homelessness in our community may be caused by ____.	We can donate canned goods to a local charity for Thanksgiving dinner.	We can write letters to our local representative to provide more housing options for families without shelters in the community.
Some things homeless people might need are _____.	When we see a panhandler on the side of the road, we can give them a dollar.	We can organize a mitten, blanket, and sock drive to draw media attention to the lack of available shelters in the city for people who are homeless.

Family Member #1: What are my passions?	Family Member #2: What are my passions?	Family Member #3: What are my passions?	Family Member #4: What are my passions?

As a family, choose one to make your focus.



What can we learn about this issue?	Examples of Category 1 Activism	Examples of Category 2 Activism

Reflect Together:

What did we do?
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What went well?

What did we learn?

What will we try next?
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