

PERMISSION AND GIVING CREDIT



How to ethically use others' work

Deciding whether you need to ask permission or give credit to an author isn't always black and white. We offer these suggestions as a guide, but if you're ever unsure, don't hesitate to reach out to your supervisor or MECASA to think it through with you.

You may need to ask for permission if:

- There is potentially a fee associated with materials
- Materials/content are not publicly accessible (e.g., you heard about it in a workshop/presentation or it was shared with you by a participant)
- When you learned about the resource, the tone suggested it was not for sharing
- It will be a larger scale event or initiative and/or shared publicly

EXAMPLES:

- Curricula that requires a license like Bringing in the Bystander or Green Dot
- Slides from a presentation you attended
- Replicating a program you heard about/attended where the presenter did not explicitly say you were free to use

You might consider just giving credit if:

- You are replicating a design or using an acronym developed by another agency/entity
- Content is publicly available online with no mentions of restricted use
- You are quoting language directly from another work
- You are using images outside of public domain or stock images (check copyright and permissions info)

EXAMPLES:

- A design or acronym like Planned Parenthood's FRIES
- A model or framework like the Spectrum of Prevention or 9 Principles of Prevention
- Borrowing or finding inspiration in an activity that was presented to you as an available resource
- Images from a website or Google search

You might not need to give credit or ask permission if:

- Concepts are widely known in the field and you are not replicating a specific mnemonic or graphic
- Images are public domain or stock photos/open source
- It represents a shared understanding that can't be attributed to a single person/source

EXAMPLES:

- Conceptual tools like "Consent is Clear, Coherent, Willing & Ongoing"
- Widely known and used tenets that are used frequently without attribution like the upstream analogy
- Stock images from open source sites like Pexels
- Free templates from sites like Canva

