Playboard 2: **Check It**

You might think you've got everything sorted, and that you've already embedded ethical and child rights-respecting principles into your design. But let's see if some Playful by Design principles could be developed further to improve a child's experience of your product.

Aim: Identify which design principles are already embedded into your product design and which need more attention.

You will need: Playful by Design principle cards, sticky notes and pen (digital or physical).

Instructions

Step 1: Lay the Playful by Design principle cards out in a row on a tabletop or virtual board.

Step 2: For each principle in turn, reflect on whether and how it is embedded into your design, writing the answers on sticky notes to the right of each principle.

Step 3: Review your notes on the playboard, and identify which principles require further attention.

Optional Step: Now that you have worked out which Playful by Design principles need further attention, you can use the icons on the principle cards to identify relevant prompt cards. Reflect on children's experiences by using the 'Why?' prompt cards. Consider alternative approaches to the design of your product, and explore the ways design decisions shape possibilities for play using the 'What if…?' prompt cards. Plan ways to improve the features and functionality of your product with the 'How?' prompt cards. The Q&A playboard will help you record your ideas.

Watch the animated guide

Principle cards

Be Welcoming
Prioritise digital features that are inclusive, sociable and welcoming to all, reducing hateful communication and forms of exclusion and reflecting multiple identities.

Enhance Imagination
Prioritise creative resources and imaginative, open-ended play over pre-determined pathways built on popularity metrics or driven by advertising or other commercial pressures.

Enable Open-ended Play
Provide and enhance features that offer easy-to-use pathways, flexibility and variety as these support children's agency and encourage their imaginative, stimulating and open-ended play.

Adopt Ethical Commercial Models
Reduce compulsive features designed to prolong user engagement or cultivate dependency on games, apps or platforms, so children's immersive play is intrinsically motivated and freely chosen.

Ensure Safety
Ensure children's play in online spaces is safe, including by giving them control over who can contact them and supplying help when needed.

Allow for Experimentation
Recognise that exploration, invention and a degree of risk taking is important in children's play and that the burden should not fall on them always to be cautious or anxious, or to follow rules set by others.

Be Age-Appropriate
Respect the needs of children of different ages by providing age-appropriate opportunities for play, while also allowing for safe intergenerational play.