

# TAPORI Facilitator's Guide

"We want all children to have the same chances!"  
- Joseph Wresinski



T a p o r i

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I- What is Tapori.....	1
II- The Tapori Groups.....	2
III- Tapori Facilitators.....	2
IV- Tapori Children.....	4
V- Tapori International Secretariat.....	4
VI- Tapori Tools.....	5
VII- Tapori meetings .....	6
VIII- Facilitating Tapori.....	7
IX- The link with the Tapori International Secretariat .....	10
X- Authorization for "the right of image".....	11



*Peace*

*Together*

*Harmony*

## I- What is Taponi ?

Tapori is a worldwide network of friendship which permits children to exchange about their lives.

Tapori unites children and promotes inclusion, value their ideas and commitment for a more just world.



We speak of the "Movement" because children of the Tapori groups come from different countries, from all backgrounds and are related to each other.

It was initiated by Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World.

The Tapori Movement is multicultural and open to all. It is not and should not be affiliated with any political movement or religion.

Tapori does not bear any legal or institutional responsibility and it does not finance projects.

The word **Tapori** comes from the Indian word "**tapoori**". One day, Joseph Wresinski travelled to India where he met very poor children called "Tapooris".

They lived in train stations and supported one another by sharing what they found. After his trip, Joseph wrote to other children:

**"You are like Tapooris when you look out for others, when from almost nothing, you find ways to make the world a better place and to get rid of poverty."**

All over the world, children dream of a place where extreme poverty will no longer exist, where everyone can live in peace and share friendship. They do not need to wait until they grow up to take action.

The Tapori network joins them and their dreams and supports them in their fight against extreme poverty and exclusion.



## II- Tapori Group



There is not a specific number of children needed to form a Tapori group. The group can be formed with as few as 2, 3 or 4 children.

It can be good for the facilitator to start gradually, with a small group and before going public.

Most groups choose their own name, for example, "Shalom", "The Brave Hearts", "Friendship and Peace", "the Star Kids,"etc....

It is not necessary to rent a room or buy office materials because the most important part of Tapori is having meetings where the children live and preparing events with them.

Tapori meetings can be held in family homes, classrooms, a room lent by a local club, a religious group, or even outside on the sidewalks in the neighborhood.

The rhythm of meetings should be one that is the most convenient for the children and facilitators and can be changed if the group's needs change. Meetings might be held more often during school vacations or just before a special event, or less often when the children have their exams.

Tapori can be integrated into the activities of other clubs or groups who keep their own identity, community, social and cultural centers, libraries, schools, but who communicate regularly with the Tapori International Secretariat.

A Tapori group should not officially declare itself as a local NGO or club.

A Tapori group is just part of the Tapori Movement and it cannot therefore represent Tapori officially nor ask for grants or donations in its name.

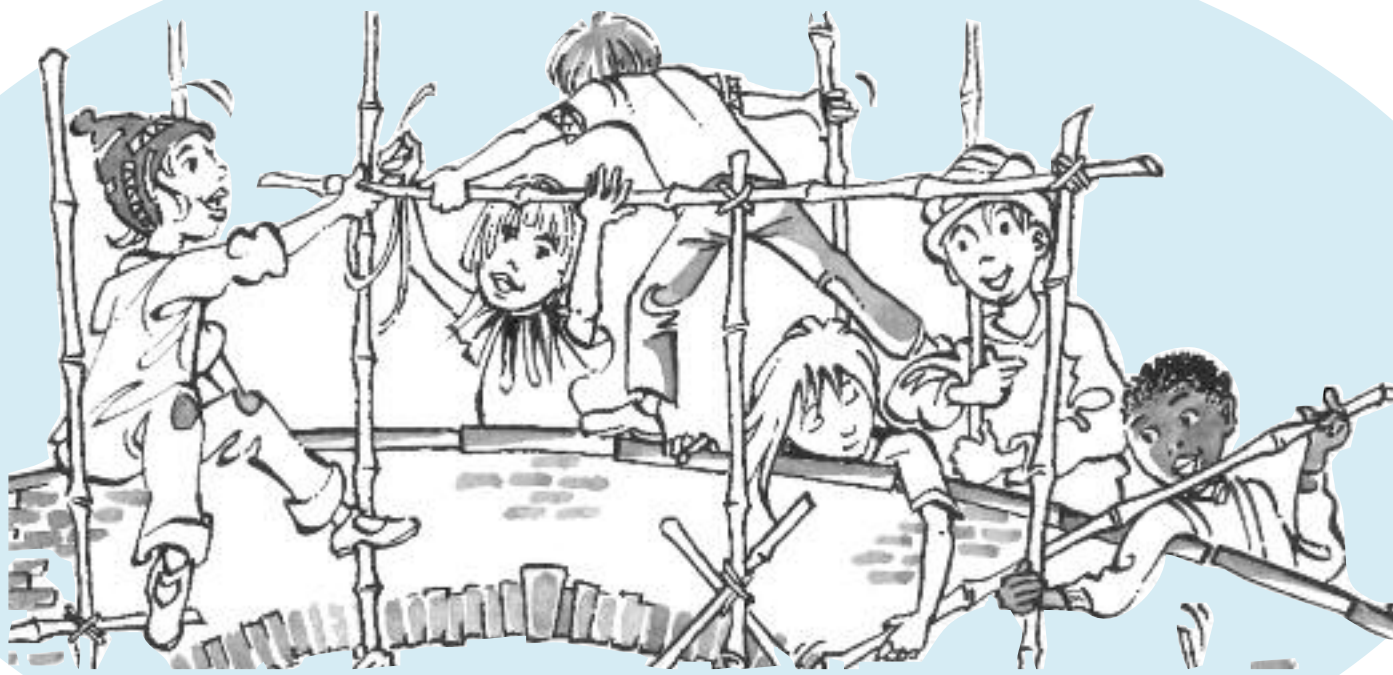
## III- Tapori Facilitator

A teenager, a parent, a teacher, or a community organizer... anyone who wants to support children's desires to say no to poverty and to find peace, friendship and commitment to citizenship.

These people help children get together, to think about, speak about, and take action against injustices. It is a voluntary commitment.







"I want you to understand that what I am asking of you is very serious.  
You can't help poor people one day and abandon them the next.  
You need to persevere and invest your time.  
We need to be able to count on you."

**Joseph Wresinski**

### How to be a Tabori facilitator?



- Engage volunteers who are attentive to children
  - Accept to be challenged by the children.
  - Be flexible and open to any changes.
  - A Tabori facilitator is not there to educate the children, but to listen to them and support them in their own actions against exclusion.
  - Each child should be respected for who he or she is, based on his or her personality, personal history and culture.
- 
- Allow each child to express themselves, including those who cannot read or write or speak the official language of the country.
  - Ensure that special attention is given to all children, especially those who have the most difficulties.
  - Each child must find their place in the group.
  - All children can take action and have ideas to contribute.
  - Enable all children to complete their acts of mutual help, sharing and reconciliation.

## IV- Tapori Children



*Drawing by a child from Switzerland*

Tapori children are between 6 to 13 years old. A child's participation in a Tapori group must always be in agreement with his or her parents or the person responsible for the child (A social worker in some cases).

They are children who refuse extreme poverty and who desire peace, friendship and who take a commitment to actively make changes. They get together and reflect about and react when injustices occur.

These children are connected through the Tapori newsletter. Every two months, it brings them news of other boys and girls from different countries, who find ways to ensure that no child is left behind or without a friend.

It suggests activities for them to be able to share friendship for all.

## V- Tapori International Secretariat

The International Secretariat is based at the International Center near Paris, France. It is run by members of ATD Fourth World Movement.

It is the secretariat that leads reflections, and creates the Tapori tools like the Tapori newsletter, the mini-books, the Tapori website, and the Tapori International campaigns...



The secretariat receives messages from children and facilitators who react to the Tapori newsletter, react to other children's messages, or who write to share about their own lives.

The secretariat guarantees a reply to each child through individual or group responses, allowing them to discover the ideas and opinions of children from other backgrounds.

The secretariat is also regularly in contact with adults who run Tapori groups and suggests tools, activities, or training documents to them.



Group Tapori - Fatima  
Africa

## VI- Taponi Tools



### The Tapori Newsletter:

It gives news and offers an activity page, focusing on a specific subject based on a story or message, or an art activity, or ideas for cooperative games.

It is all based on what the children also write to Tapori and the people working with them.

### Tapori mini-books:

These mini-books tell the stories of children who have shown their courage in life.

They don't always have easy lives, but they share the same dreams as all children around the world.



### The Tapori Campaign:



Each year, Tapori launches a campaign for **October 17: World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty**. Based on a story, children are asked to think about those who experience exclusion and to send an object or idea that shows how to reject such exclusion. This object or idea is then shared with other people from around the world.

Examples from the past Tapori campaigns: life-size silhouettes with messages (2006-2007), the collective posters and the vehicles of friendship (2008-2009), "Yes, I love to learn!" - Book by groups (2010-2011). Puppets and true stories of friendship (2016-2017).

### The Tapori website ([en.tapori.org](http://en.tapori.org)):

Updated regularly, this is a space where children can have access to stories and news.

#### Remark:

The sharing of experiences between groups and facilitators from different places build a rich source of exchanges.





## VII- Tapori Gatherings

Tapori gatherings are a space which allow :

➔ **every child :**

- to find his/her place
- to discover and unleash their potential
- to react when there are injustices and to refuse them
- to learn that each person has something to contribute (to others, to society...)
- to act and change things

➔ **experience the Tapori Group :**

- to live other values and alternatives such as solidarity, sharing, equality in diversity, living together, avoid selfishness, individualism and competition.
- to act where there is injustice in all its forms.



### Testimony of Former Tapori Children:

Bob and Emmanuel are animators of Tapori in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They grew up in Tapori and they agreed to share about their childhood in Tapori.

They say: **"At Tapori, we learned the sense of responsibility, the sense of forgiveness... Our mission is " Friendship and Peace." The fulfilment for each of us was to be integrated into the group. At Tapori, the relationship between child and facilitator was friendly and fraternal. The animators reminded us at each meeting the duty to go and find those who are still left behind and those who are absent. At Tapori, we are friends of those who have no friends. "**

➔ **Bob KATEMBO :**



Bob KATEMBO  
RDC

*The animators handed over to us some responsibilities which allowed us to move forward and organise ourselves in their absence. The facilitators made me feel that I was important in the group and that my presence was indispensable in the midst of others. I was responsible for mobilizing the other children to come to the Tapori group. I always remembered the time and the day of the meetings. The organisers gave us space to express ourselves freely while giving our opinions on a given subject.*

*During radio broadcast programmes, they allowed us the responsibility to choose among ourselves, who would go to the radio station. We took turns to allow all children to participate.*

*We have an activity called the "House visits." It is about going to visit isolated people, who are rejected by society ..., those without friends. It is the Tapori children who suggest which people to visit and who organize everything, down to the smallest detail of the action."*



## ➔ Emmanuel MUGISHO :



Emmanuel MUGISHO  
RDC

"As Tapori children, our mission was to promote Friendship and Peace; two important values and fundamental preparing us for a better future, enlightened, united and full of responsibilities. When I joined the Tapori group, I was too shy and introverted. One of the organisers gave me a role to play in a skit and my words served the whole group. That's when I knew I had my place in Tapori. The facilitators came with new games. I remember a game called "horse on the bridge" that allowed me to get used to others while sharing ideas.

The facilitators did everything to forgive the children because there were times when the children were fighting each other.

It's football that united us. When you're in the same team, you're supposed to communicate in order to win; a collective victory with the efforts of everyone.

Towards the end of the Tapori meeting, we made the attendance list and there we learned who was absent. The leader asked everyone to come soon with the news of those who were absent. The link between parents and facilitators existed. We always wanted to introduce our animators to our parents and our parents also wanted to know what we are doing in the group.

## VIII- Facilitating Tapori Meetings

There is no precise method for a Tapori meeting. Each group is unique. The facilitator can set their own objectives and can build up the identity of the group according to the local framework and needs.

However, for each meeting, it is important not to forget the following scheme of working:

- Programme
- Preparation
- Observe, listen and take notes
- Evaluate
- Send and share with the Tapori Secretariat



## Programme

### Programming to know your direction

Tapori meetings are activities that are part of the long term. Like any other activity, the Tapori meeting is scheduled. It is good to know your direction, hence the need to programme.

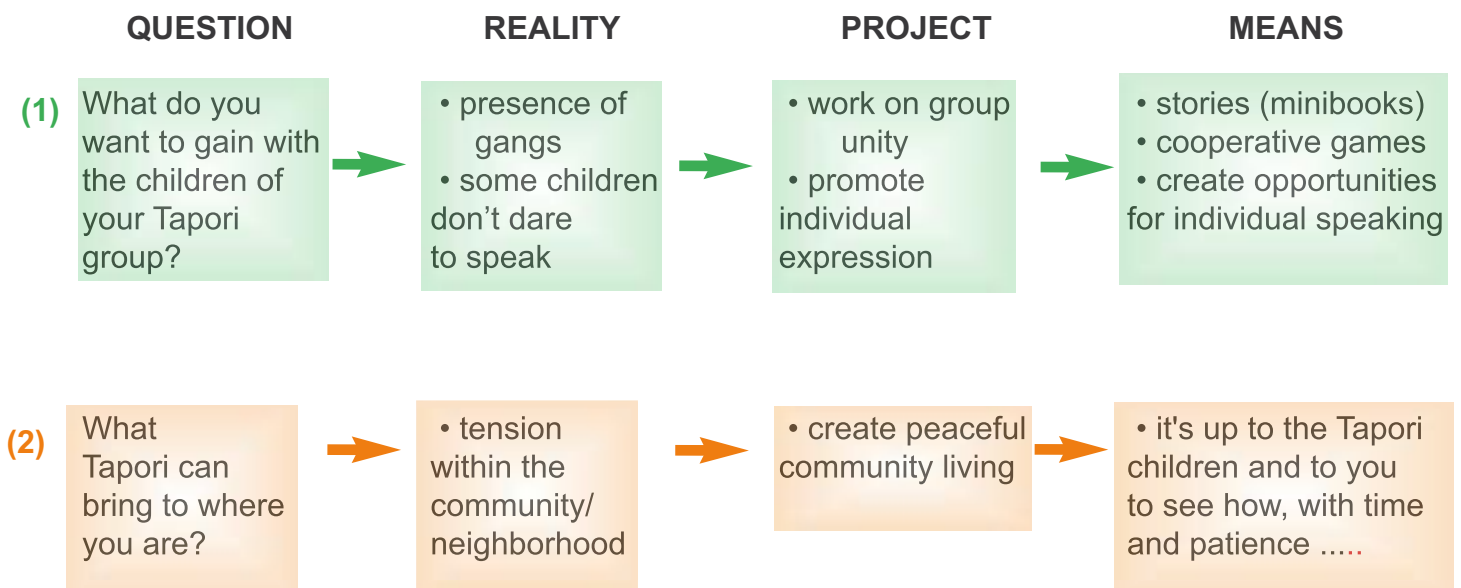
For this, it is better to ask the following questions:

What is important to work on in the group? What do you want to achieve with the children in the group? What does your Tapori group create from where you are? (group identity)

What means and strategies do you need to achieve this?

The facilitator starts from the group's experience, their environment and from what the children want in creating projects. There can be several projects at once or one project followed by another. We just have to know if it's in the short, medium or long term.

### Example of Programming :



## Prepare

**To prepare is to anticipate the possible difficulties and to create as many chances to get to know each other as possible between the children.**

- From the Tapori tools and the selected project (s), the facilitator can prepare the content of each Tapori meeting, and readjust the means (review the table above) implemented according to the expected results.
- This step also allows the facilitator to try out the manual activity in advance and thus be aware of possible difficulties, or to think of adapting the material to what exists on site.

## Observe, listen and take notes

**A gesture, or word from a child or parent that we treasure like a precious stone.**



- What remark (s) did the child make?
- Did they tell you about school, family, the neighborhood, other children, their dreams, the job they want to do, their difficulties, their successes, the Tapori group, etc..
- What did they say?
- Have you talked to parents, passersby, young people?
- What do they say about their neighborhood?

**Suggestion:** Keep a notebook of Tapori meetings, for example, to note the progress of the encounter and keep it like a precious stone. This is very important because it allows the facilitator to keep track and accompany the children.

## Evaluate

**the meeting, the facilitation in relation to your preparation and your objectives**

- What went well?
- What are the points to improve, the difficulties encountered?
- Your impressions: about a child, reading or Tapori activity or manual activity?
- What did you learn about children's lives in the neighborhood?

For example: a child who never stays quiet and who one day listens to the whole story from beginning to end, or whoever never says anything, has spoken...etc)

The evaluation will guide you in the preparation of the next meeting and allow for improvements.

## Share

**With the International Secretariat of Tapori**



- Results of activities proposed in the Tapori Newsletter: reflections, creations, actions ...
- Children's words, messages and creations (written, oral, manual ...)
- Children's letters for other Tapori groups
- Your Activity Report
- The Report of Tapori meetings ...





# THINK ABOUT OUR PROJECT

**SHORT TERM:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**MEDIUM TERM:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**LONG TERM:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## VIII- Link with the Taponi International Secretariat

Regular correspondence between the facilitator and the International Secretariat is very important. It permits :

- The Taponi International Secretariat team, to get to know the children, to follow the evolution of the group in its context and its reality, to be able to better communicate with them and to have elements allowing to create Taponi tools,
- The facilitator, to develop and share their questions,
- The facilitator and the Taponi International Secretariat to support each other and to better understand children's dreams in order to accompany them.

### What the facilitator may send to the Taponi International Secretariat:

#### Activity Reports:

- A little summary of your meetings
- Some words and messages from children, parents, other facilitators
- Difficulties encountered, strong points and projects.
- Other reactions, feedback from those who participate in the meetings/gatherings

#### Children's messages :

Country  
Town  
Name of the group (if you have one)  
Topic of reflection  
Context in which the messages were written

- Specify the following :

- **Keep the children's messages as they said them and indicate their ages.**



#### Photos and videos:

- **Specify (as for the messages) :** country, town, the name of the group (if there is one), the context of photos and videos and how they were made. Indicate the names of the children who are involved in the video.

- **Send to us the authorization form for the "permission to use the image"**  
When taking photos, you must obtain the parents' permission to use the photos of their children by having them fill out and sign the form on the next page.

#### How to send it?

**By Email :** [taponi@taponi.org](mailto:taponi@taponi.org)  
**Via website :** [en.taponi.org](http://en.taponi.org)

**Send by post at:**  
**Tapori - ATD Quart Monde**  
12, rue Pasteur - 95480 Pierrelaye - FRANCE



## Authorization for the "permission to use the image"

I, the undersigned: .....

Mother / Father / Guardian of : .....Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Tapori Group : (Name of the group, if any and country) :

.....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Authorize the Tapori International Secretariat to disseminate the images (photos, videos) and interviews conducted with my child. Please mark the box if you agree:

- as part of its overall communication
- in the context of a particular project
- as part of the report
- Worldwide, for an unlimited duration, free of charge
- Specifically concerning DVDs.
- on Tapori's website and on social media.

I agree to this free of charge. I do this to support Tapori's action and to allow all children to promote dignity and friendship.

Signed at....., Date:.....

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





**Tapori - ATD Quart Monde**

12, rue Pasteur -  
95480 Pierrelaye - FRANCE

**Email :** [tapori@tapori.org](mailto:tapori@tapori.org)

**Website:** [en.tapori.org](http://en.tapori.org)