

Working with Groups:

Fishbone Diagram

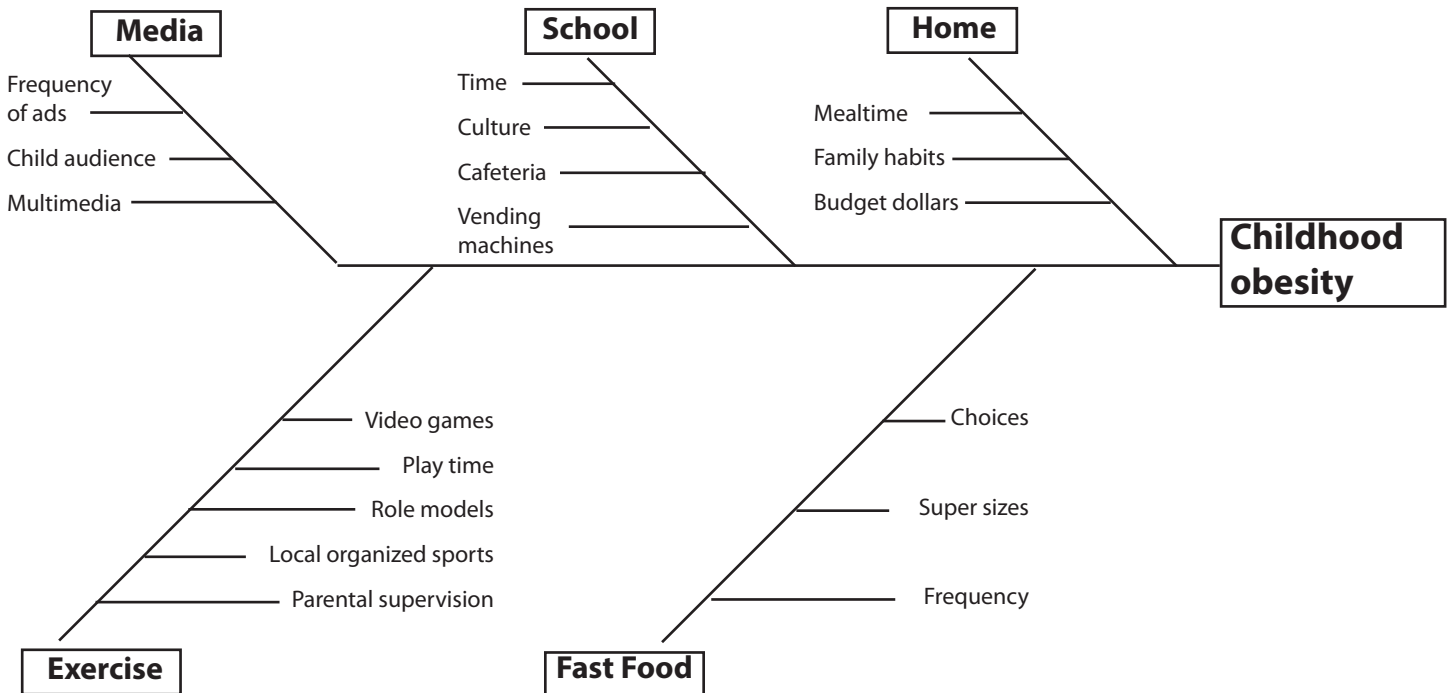
The fishbone diagram is very similar to the mind mapping technique. The difference is that the fishbone diagram is best used when a group focuses on identifying possible causes of a problem/issue. It is a visual way to identify the components of an issue or problem.

1. First, draw a triangle (or any shape) on the right edge (and in the center from top to bottom) of a large sheet of paper. In that shape, write the name of the problem or issue.
2. Then draw a straight line to the left.

3. Next, place angled lines up from the straight line. These will represent bones similar to the backbone of a fish. On each of the lines, write a cause of the problem. Then you can write more specific details about causes on that particular bone of the spine. The entire diagram looks like a skeleton of a fish. (See below.)

Reference: <http://www.lpg.fsu.edu/charting/InstructionalStrategies/howto-tactics/ht-k5fish.asp>

Fishbone diagram



Source: *Working with Groups: Generating Ideas, Making Decisions, and Enhancing Communication*, by Phyllis I. Schoenholz and Cheryl A. Burkhart-Kriesel, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, EC478, 2008, The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture. Adapted with permission.