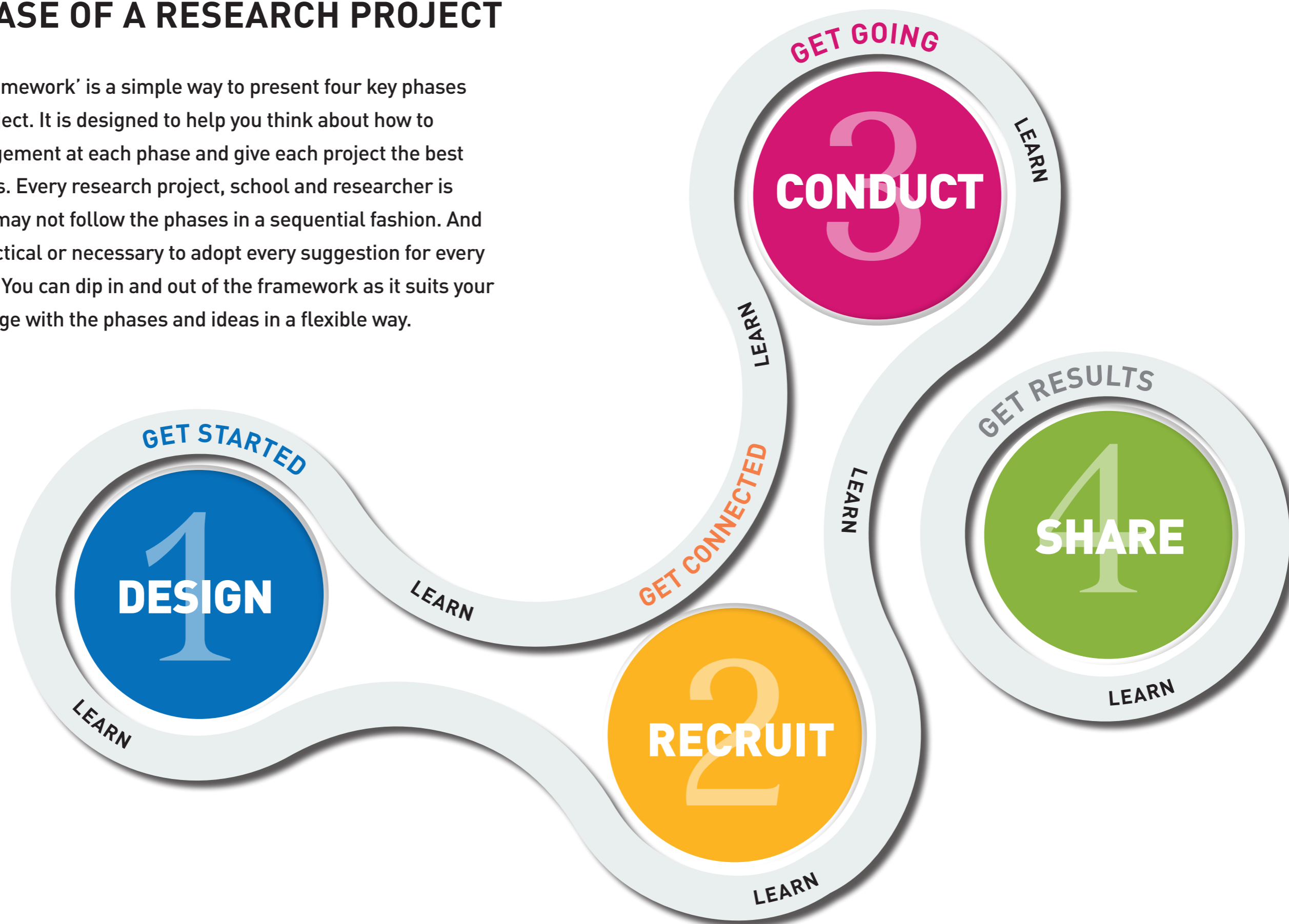


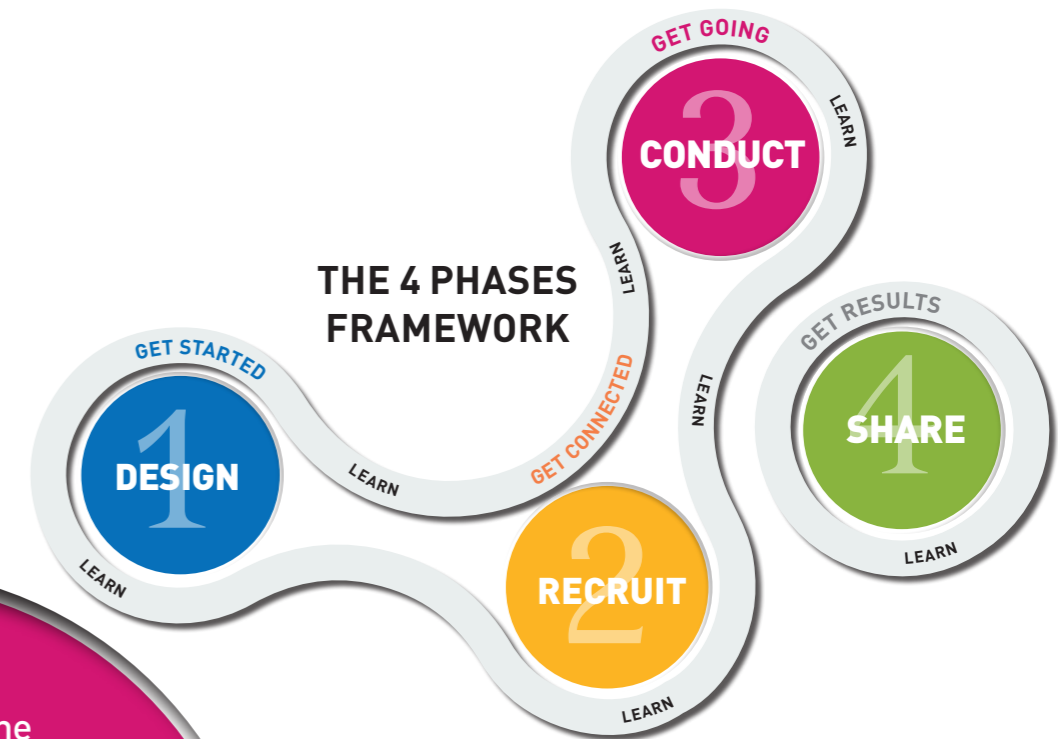
STRENGTHENING ENGAGEMENT AT EACH PHASE OF A RESEARCH PROJECT

The following 'framework' is a simple way to present four key phases of a research project. It is designed to help you think about how to strengthen engagement at each phase and give each project the best chance of success. Every research project, school and researcher is different, so you may not follow the phases in a sequential fashion. And it may not be practical or necessary to adopt every suggestion for every research project. You can dip in and out of the framework as it suits your project, and engage with the phases and ideas in a flexible way.



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1 DESIGN

Get started – design and 'scope' the research

- Work together to shape the research questions and design of the project.
- Clarify prior knowledge and learnings, and integrate these into the project.
- Identify resources, gaps and barriers that may arise.
 - Refine definitions, expectations and context of the project.

2 RECRUIT

Get connected – get participants on board and on the same page

- Negotiate and document the specific conditions of engagement. Who's doing what? What can the researcher 'give back'?
- Clearly 'outline' the project and provide details upfront: e.g. instruments, key contacts, data collection, use of rooms, timing.
 - Discuss and try to minimise excess demands and any potential risks.
 - Outline and begin the agreed consent process.

3 CONDUCT

Get going – start the fieldwork process

- Ensure research materials and processes are user-friendly (e.g. translated for families who speak languages other than English).
- Build capability through professional learning.
- Keep the lines of communication open. Do staff, parents, students need to know what's happening, when and why?
 - Review timelines and schedules regularly.
 - Be flexible – what's working and what isn't? What can be changed?

4 SHARE

Get results – share findings in a meaningful way

- Ensure schools receive findings in a timely manner.
- Present school-specific project findings in a useable and actionable format.
- Offer support and guidance to help schools consider potential implications, developments and changes.
 - If applicable, connect findings to other learning areas.
 - Seek school feedback on future research and what might be done differently next time.

LEARN THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS:

Learn the school context and desires of the school – ideally before you get to the Design phase. This helps both parties work out if the partnership will be mutually beneficial and sustainable.

Learn throughout the process and make changes as required.

Learn how best to communicate, organise and take action on the knowledge and findings.

Learn how an ongoing relationship can be fostered between the school and researcher beyond the life of one project.