



Thinking Skills Workshops

Teaching and Learning in 21st Century: (1 full day)

The changes that are taking place in the workplace as a direct result of technology mean that teachers need to find different ways to teach children so that they are able to learn the skills they need in the 21st century. Information is readily available. Children need to be able to find, evaluate, use and apply the knowledge they find, not just regurgitate it.

This workshop explains to teachers why we need to change the way we teach, how to engage the children in our classrooms and how to make the work they do relevant to the 21st century. We revisit Bloom's Taxonomy and examine how this taxonomy can be used to develop thinking in children and to include more of the higher order thinking required by business today.

Introduction to Thinking Skills (separate courses for Foundation Phase, Intermediate Phase and Senior Phase) (2 full days)

The workshop explains why it is important to teach children how to think. It uses Blooms Taxonomy to show how thinking can be developed from lower to higher order thinking. The workshop introduces teachers to the five sets of thinking skills that are outlined in the UK Curriculum – Information Processing, Reasoning, Enquiry, Creativity and Evaluation.

Teachers are given a set of steps to follow when introducing the skill to the children as well as ideas on ways in which they can assess these skills.

The skills covered are:

- Information Processing – Classification, Comparison and Analysis
- Reasoning – asking the right questions and Inference

- Enquiry – problem solving and metacognition
- Reasoning – giving reasons for answers and justification of opinions
- Inference – discovering the answer from a set of criteria
- Creativity – modification, forced relationships, flexibility and CREATE
- Evaluation – teaching children to evaluate their own work

Different skills can be included if desired.

De Bono and CoRT 1: (1 full day workshop)

This workshop introduces De Bono's CoRT 1 thinking skills. It explains to teachers the misconceptions about the teaching of thinking and it provides teachers with a full set of CoRT 1 tools e.g. PMI, CAF etc as well as examples of ways in which these tools can be incorporated into the classroom.

De Bono and Six Hat Thinking: (1 full day workshop)

Six Hat Thinking is a fun way to introduce different types of thinking to children. This workshop outlines the theory behind this methodology as well as explaining how each hat is used to develop thinking – e.g. Black Hat thinking is about finding things that could be wrong with the idea, ways in which something might not work etc. Teachers are shown ways in which they can incorporate Six Hat thinking into the curriculum and how they can assess it. To conclude this workshop the teachers are given different ways in which to sequence Six Hat Thinking to address particular situations e.g. Evaluation of an idea.

Introduction to Philosophy for Children (2 full day workshop)

Philosophy for Children is a methodology that encourages young people and children to participate in 'communities of enquiry where they develop a better understanding of each other's ways of thinking and feeling through discussing ethical issues (e.g. questions about right and wrong, freedom and responsibility, etc.) Children learn to listen to and to respect each other, but they also learn how to reason with each other. The idea behind this methodology is that by participating in the community of enquiry, each child has the opportunity to develop the group's understanding of the issue under discussion as well as being able to ask questions they may have or to express their opinion about the issue in hand. P4C develops caring, cooperative, critical and creative thinking. The teacher's role is that of a facilitator who guides the discussion and the children involved learn how to become a community of enquiry that has a democratic and reflective approach to discussion.