

Beacon Media
**Professional development for
teachers**

Creative Thinking Skills

The Power Point presentation can be found at:
www.beaconmedia.com.au – Key topics for
Christian teachers

What is creativity?

- Creativity involves breaking away from traditional patterns of thought.
- Creativity is not just about the arts, or particular types of individual. We all have the ability to think creatively –
- to come up with ideas, solve problems, to use imagination and look for alternative innovative outcomes in any activity.
- Creativity means generating outcomes that are original and of value.

Where does creativity come from?

- God is the ultimate creator.
- His wisdom and knowledge are available to us.
- He can give us the best ideas to do great things for Him.
- He can give us the best ideas to solve problems.

Why are creative thinking skills necessary?

- Creative thinking skills are essential for success in learning and success in life.
- Children who are encouraged to think creatively show increased levels of motivation and self esteem.
- Creativity prepares them with the flexible skills they will need to face an uncertain future.
- Employers want people who are adaptable, innovative, can solve problems and communicate well with others.

Characteristics of a creative person

- Memory for facts
- Memory for detail
- Independent
- Flexible
- Thinks about things; reflective
- Has many ideas
- Can develop and improve upon an idea
- Comes up with new ideas
- Persistent
- Curious
- Imaginative
- A problem solver
- Likes to experiment

What hinders creative learning?

- A classroom where pupils work for long periods of time with little active learning.
- No opportunity to ask questions and find out answers for themselves.

Where does creativity flourish?

Creativity thrives where there is time to:

- explore, experiment and generate ideas.
- show imagination and originality
- judge the value of what they have done
- ask questions

- represent ideas in different ways – visually, physically and verbally

Examples of Beacon Media thinking skills

Topic: The Senses – God is Creator

The answer is “our senses”.

Give 5 questions.

Topic: Healthy Food – God is Provider

- Think of a healthy food that most children do not like.
- Think of 3 ways to make the food taste better, but still healthy.

Topic: Being a helper – God is a servant

- What if people did not help each other?
- Give 3 things that might happen.

20 Thinking skills from Tony Ryans “Thinking Keys”

- You can create topic-based thinking skills using the following ideas....

1. Thinking in the opposite direction

- e.g. Name 10 things you cannot clean

2. What if...

- e.g. What if the price of petrol was immediately doubled.

3. Disadvantages and improvements

- e.g. What are the disadvantages of an umbrella?
- How could you improve the design?

4. The combination

- List the attributes of 2 dissimilar objects and then combine them.
- e.g. create an invention that combines a telephone and a lounge chair.

5. The BAR think ladder

- Take an object
- Make it **B**igger
- **A**dd something.
- **R**eplace something.

6. Alphabet acrostic

e.g. JOY

- Jesus first
- Others next
- Yourself last

7. Variations

- How many ways can you...
- e.g. catch a fish

8. The Doodle

- Make it into something

9. The Prediction

Predict how schools will operate in 20 years time.

10. Different uses

- e.g. Find 10 uses for plastic water bottles.

11. Making the impossible possible

- e.g. How could hunger and poverty be eliminated in all African nations?

12. Things in common

- Decide upon 2 objects which would generally have nothing in common, and try to outline some points they have in common.
- E.g. The Pacific Ocean and the Grand Canyon
- Both tourist attractions.
- Both non-living things.
- Both are deep.

13. The question

- Start with the answer
- e.g. the answer is "Midnight". Give 3 questions.

1. When is it 12 hours after midday?

2. What is another name for "the middle of the night"?

3. If you go to bed at 8 o'clock, what time is it 4 hours later?

14. Brainstorming

- Think of as many ideas as you can.
- Don't hesitate and consider why they might not be good ideas.
- Simply write them down.

15. Inventions

- e.g. invent an eggshell peeler for a boiled egg.

16. Alternatives

- Take a statement which everyone thinks cannot be questioned. Then try to think of other ways of dealing with the situation.
- e.g. Everyone needs to pay taxes.

17. The Construction

- Get students to build something given limited equipment.
- e.g. Build the highest possible self-supporting structure using: 10 straws and 4 rubber bands.

18. Problem solving

- Solve a problem by using 3 totally dissimilar objects.
- Each of the objects cannot be used for its normally intended function.
- e.g. You are trying to catch a mouse.
- You have a broom, a bucket and a tennis balls.

19. Find an alternative way

- e.g. work out 3 different ways to clean your teeth without a toothbrush.

20. A different interpretation

- Describe an unusual situation and then think of some different reasons why this might be happening.
- e.g. Your neighbour is making large circles in his backyard by pouring black oil from a can.
- A possible reason why: He has discovered some ant holes, and is marking them out so that he can poison the ants.