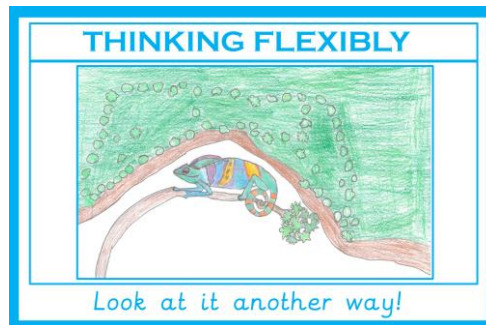


Habits of Mind

Thinking Flexibly



What does it mean?

Developing the ability to think differently. To see an issue from more than one perspective. To remain open to new ideas that cause you to change your mind. Considering many options for solving a problem.

When should you use it?

You would need to use this when you have to consider different options to solve a problem or look at something from a different point of view.

Strategies to help

- Generate lots of ideas and then sit and discuss the positives and negatives of each option to find the best solution for solving a problem.
- Listen carefully to others and make sure you understand them by repeating what they are saying. This will help you consider different points of view.
- Prove you understand a topic by explaining it in another way or solve the problem with a new method.
- Make Lists - Set a target number of ideas to suit the task and force yourself to generate a minimum number of different ideas.
- Playing certain games can help like chess or mind puzzles.

Questions to consider

1. What makes you think that?
2. What is your point of view on the topic and how does that compare with another person's? Who would share your point of view? Who would think differently on the topic? Why?
3. Evaluate your solution. Is it genuinely the best?
4. Go back to the beginning and re-think the problem. What is it asking you to do or learn?
5. Would your solution work if . . .? What if you . . .?