



Hillcross Primary School

Parent Information on

Edward De Bono's

Six Thinking Hats

The Basics



- There are six different imaginary hats that you can put on or take off.
- Think of the "hats" as thinking icons.
- Each hat is a different color and represents a different type or mode of thinking.
- We all wear the same hat (do the same type of thinking) at the same time.
- When we change hats - we change our thinking.



What does each Hat mean?

White Hat	Data, Facts, Information known or needed.
Red Hat	Feelings. Emotions and Intuition.
Yellow Hat	Values and Benefits- Why something may work. (Advantages)
Black Hat	Difficulties, potential problems- why something may not work. (Disadvantages)
Green Hat	Creativity- possibilities, alternatives, solutions, new ideas.
Blue Hat	Manages the thinking process, focus, next steps, action plans.



Benefits of Six Thinking Hats

1. Provides a common language
2. Diversity of thought
3. Use more of our brains
4. Removal of ego (reduce confrontation)
5. Focus (one thing at a time)
6. Save time
7. Create, evaluate & implement action plans



The blue hat role

- Control of thinking & the process
- Begin & end session with blue hat
- Facilitator, session leader's role:
 - open, sequence, close
 - Focus: what should we be thinking about
 - Asking the right questions
 - Defining & clarifying the problem
 - Setting the thinking tasks



Thinking Process

- Why we are here
- what we are thinking about
- Definition of the situation or problem
- Alternative definitions
- what we want to achieve
- where we want to end up
- The background to the thinking



White Hat Thinking

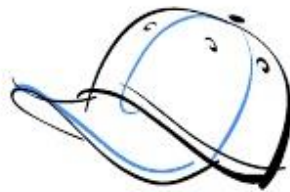
1. Neutral, objective information
2. Facts & figures
3. Questions: what do we know, what don't we know, what do we need to know
4. Excludes opinions, judgments
5. Removes feelings & impressions



White Hat Activity

Small groups of 3:

Look at the box and pretend that someone has bought you a pet. It is inside the box. Write down all of the facts you would like to know about this pet? Write all your questions in the space below.



Black Hat Thinking

1. Cautious and careful
2. Logical negative - why it won't work
3. Critical judgement, pessimistic view
4. Separates logical negative from emotional
5. Focus on errors, evidence, conclusions
6. Logical & truthful, but not necessarily fair



Black Hat Activity

In small groups of 3:

Look at the **All-Weather Bike**. Read the and write what you think might be wrong with the design. Identify the weaknesses in this new kind of bicycle.



Green Hat Thinking

- New ideas, concepts, perceptions
- Deliberate creation of new ideas
- Alternatives and more alternatives
- New approaches to problems
- Creative & lateral thinking



Green Hat Activity



Go back to the **All-Weather Bike**.

We have looked at all the weaknesses of this new type of bike. Now go back and look at how we can overcome these weaknesses? Do you have any better ideas for an all weather bike?

Draw or write your explanations on the back of the All-weather bike sheet.



Yellow Hat Thinking

1. Positive & speculative
2. Positive thinking, optimism, opportunity
3. Benefits
4. Best-case scenarios
5. Exploration



Yellow Hat Activity

In your group:

(Group Roles, Graphic Organisers)

What are the good points of being tall?



Red Hat Thinking

1. Emotions & feelings
2. Intuitions, impressions
3. Doesn't have to be logical or consistent
4. No justifications, reasons or basis
5. All decisions are emotional in the end



Red Hat Activity

By yourself:

Listen to this piece of music. Write down how this piece of music makes you feel?

Music

