Creative Collaborative Problem Solving Skills

Case Study of the training session for the University of Oxford Mathematics Institute EPSRC CDT (Industrially Focused Mathematical Modelling)

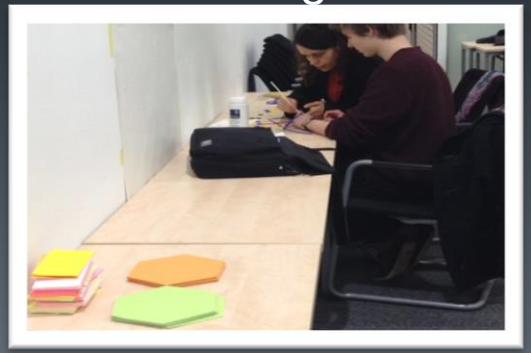
Learn more about the innovative CDT programme at Oxford

The Challenge

- A group of talented mathematics students on the first year of their Doctorate Training needed to develop insights into the processes for developing creative ideas within collaborative group settings.
- The training needed to build on some basic understanding of creative thinking and support the students to work with others in industry settings to communicate their creative insights.

What we did:

We designed a two day training course that would support the group to learn and practice a range of practical creativity tools and practice communicating these ideas to others

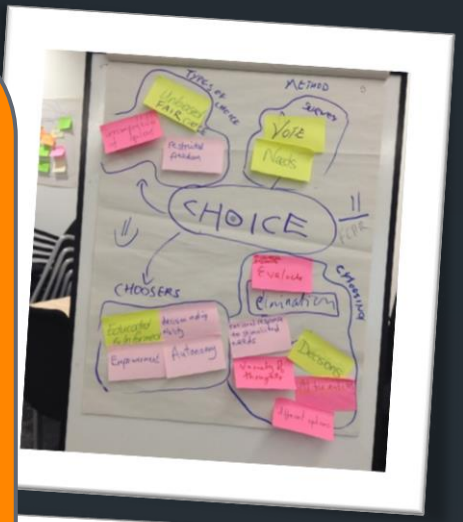


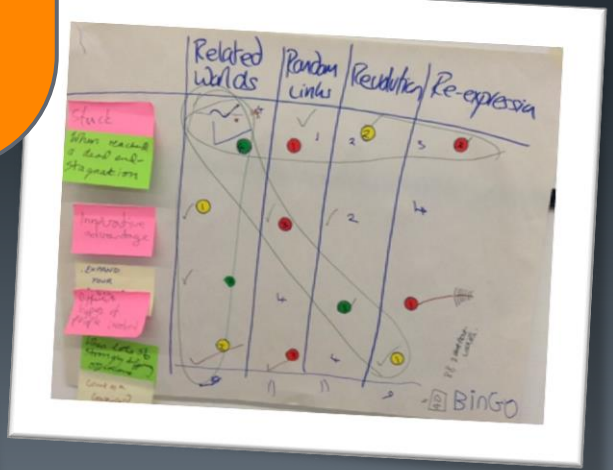
Programme: 3 Modules

Module	
Communicate to Collaborate	How to collaborate in teams Creative listening Getting Feedback on Ideas Influencing Others
Using Existing Knowledge to Generate Ideas	Basics of Brainstorming Reflective Thinking Reaching Consensus
Radical Problem Solving	Making Random Links Re-expression of Problems Revolutionary Thinking Where in the world?

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Collaboration with others
- Assess Consensus
- Listening carefully to others and summarise their ideas
- Use different stimuli to generate radical ideas
- Build on ideas in groups
- Articulate problems and generate solutions





WHAT WAS THE VALUE OF THIS TRAINING?

the centre for facilitation

It's very interesting to see how some simple techniques can improve both general and specialist situations. A lot of things that you think should come naturally can generally be improved by learning small skills.

It is quite easy to be sceptical before doing a course like this, but if you approach with an open mind there are lots of useful techniques and it was well worth the time.

I learned that creativity is not a talent that some people have and others don't – it's a skill that can be developed by being purposeful about it and employing a variety of techniques.

Awareness that there are fun techniques out there to aid problem solving and they really are helpful!

Client Feedback

“You really listened to what we asked for and provided an outline which showed this attention to our requirements. We appreciated the effort you put into designing the training so that it was relevant to the very specific needs of our students"

Laura O’Mahony Mathematics Institute

If you think some innovative thinking and group work skills could help your team to work together to generate new ideas why not contact us for a chat?

Ring: 08456 210008
(this will take you to a voice mail box if we are all out at an event so please just leave a message and we will respond in 24 hours)

Email: christinebell@centreforfacilitation.co.uk