

Great Conversations with Rich Pictures

Rich Pictures are a way to explore complex ideas through images, making conversations more engaging and interactive. They've been used since caveman times and have evolved into a global language that is used by people as diverse as therapists and NGOs. Think of Rich Pictures as Brainstorming with pictures instead of words.



Activity

1. Agree ground-rules e.g. everyone has to draw at least one thing, the page has to be filled, and there are no judgements about what or how you draw.
2. Put a large sheet of blank paper in the middle of the table and pose your question, problem or idea. If you're doing this online, you can use an online whiteboard, or there are many collaborative tools available.
3. Everyone grabs a 'pen of power' and starts drawing their ideas and thoughts. People can be reluctant ("I can't draw") so be prepared to be the one to start!
4. Have some fun! People will often start off reluctantly but gather pace if they are given enough time and encouragement.
5. When the drawings are all done, step back and ask questions or invite people to explain what they have drawn.
6. Now you can start to evaluate any potential solutions or issues raised.



Advantages of Rich Pictures

- Pictures can convey complex thoughts and emotions, very quickly.
- Pictures can help break down barriers e.g. language, cultural etc.
- The majority of people are 'visual thinkers' so relate to pictures easily.
- It's easy to link ideas and concepts, and demonstrate relationships.
- Pictures are engaging and help us 'sit in the middle of the conversation'.
- Rich Pictures can be highly collaborative and fun!

See also: <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/engineering-technology/the-art-rich-pictures>

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