

# CAN YOU IMAGINE?

## Activity Title:

Possibility Thinking

## Activity Description

In this activity, learners will discover Possibility Thinking and complete several creativity exercises. This activity can be completed leading up to the Can You Imagine? Wall activity.

## Key Outcomes

- Help young people to understand the essence of Possibility Thinking
- Open the mind to creative ways of thinking to prepare for the Can You Imagine? Wall activity

## Educator Reading

Now more than ever, children need the permission to dream, to create and to imagine. Possibility Thinking is a tool that anyone can use.

### *5 Steps to Nurture Possibility Thinking in Learners*

1. Create inclusive learning environments – where ideas and experiences are highly valued and dialogue is encouraged.
2. Recognize opportunities for ‘what if?’ and ‘as if’ thinking.
3. Challenge learners to raise big questions, enabling ‘possibility broad’ learning, ensuring tasks extend rather than constrain (independence rather than templates).
4. Value learners’ independence and collaboration, encouraging reflection among children and adults.

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## READING: What is ‘Possibility Thinking’?

Possibility Thinking is the envisioning of something that hasn’t happened or doesn’t exist yet, but through individual and collective efforts becomes possible. It offers the chance to wonder, and gives permission to dare to dream.

## READING: The Benefits of Creativity Exercises

We can develop Possibility Thinking through creativity exercises. A creativity exercise is an activity that is focused on building creative skills, like problem-solving, communication, and innovation, rather than improving a specific creative ability, like painting or dancing. Creativity exercises offer many benefits, from increased mental flexibility resilience to strengthened problem solving skills.

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## ACTIVITY: Possibility Thinking Exercises for the Classroom

Select, adapt and run any of the below exercises with your learners.

### New out of two

Take two separate products and find a way to combine them. For example, you could use two common classroom tools, like a pen and a tape dispenser, to create an interesting new product. Design a marketing strategy and target market for the new product you have created.

### Incomplete figure test

The incomplete figure test is a drawing exercise. Use a small, simple scribble, like a half-circle or loop, to create a full drawing. To do this in a group, several people use the same scribble to work from, and then they compare the drawings. Seeing how others interpret the same small design can expand your creative thinking and give you new ideas.

### Paper clip test

The paper clip test is a thinking exercise that works really well in small groups. In this activity, groups receive a box of paper clips and find as many uses for them as possible.. Groups then share their ideas with the rest of the room. This innovation can lead to an increased number of original ideas for projects.

### Dictionary story

Select a word at random from the dictionary. Use the word you chose, the word above it and the word below it to create a short story. Finding a way to create an interesting, cohesive story from seemingly random elements can improve your ability to make connections and combine ideas that don't necessarily relate.

### Draw it again

Draw the same object, like a coffee mug, every day for a week or more. See what new details or nuances you notice as you examine the object every day. Extreme focus like this should improve your attention to detail and help you notice new elements in your life.

Once you've tried some of these fun challenges, move on to the Can You Imagine? Wall activity.