

CLUSTERING

Reducing an excessive number of ideas

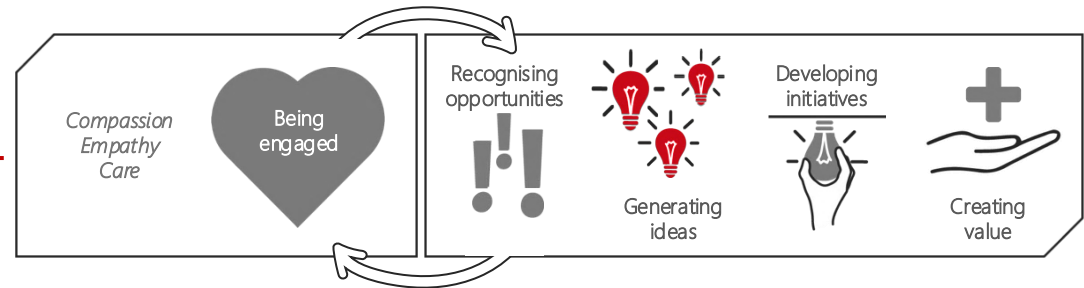
age 4 - 6

age 7 - 9

age 10 - 12



20 min



SUITABLE

- If the children come up with too many ideas.
- To get an overview of the ideas generated by the class.
- To get a better overview of the ideas generated by the class.

TIPS

- Very special ideas can also form a cluster. Give unselected special ideas a place in a 'hall of fame'.
- Create an 'other' cluster for ideas that do not fit into any other cluster.

MATERIALS

Pens or coloured pencils, post-it notes

Source: ontwerpenindeklas.nl

STEP 1

Ask the children to write their ideas for solutions on (digital) post-it notes and collect these post-it notes.

STEP 2

Have the children group ideas that they think belong together into 3 to 6 clusters (e.g. stick the sticky notes together on a sheet of paper per cluster, move the sticky notes around on a (digital) board, etc.).

Helpful questions:

- Which ideas are very similar or the same?
- Which ideas solve the problem in the same way?
- Which ideas have the same theme, subject, place, time or are intended for the same target audience?
- Which ideas complement each other? Which ideas together form a complete and/or better idea?
- Which ideas are opposites of each other?

STEP 3

Give each cluster a name together with the children.

- What do these ideas want to change or do?

STEP 4

Work with the children to see if you can merge clusters into a single idea.



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Example CLUSTERING

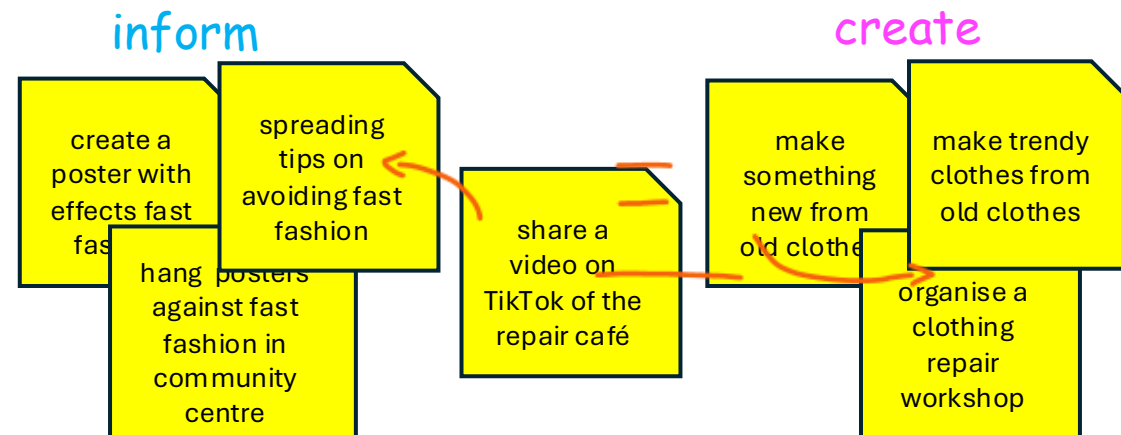
Context

Children often see delivery services driving around the neighbourhood with parcels for local residents. These often contain clothing that has been purchased online. In a class discussion, the children note that many people around us want to buy clothing that is not (too) expensive. The teacher teaches some more about fast fashion, including its impact on the environment (transport, low quality, waste, etc.) and its influence on people in manufacturing countries (low-wage countries, child labour, etc.). The children come up with ideas about opportunities they see to tackle this situation in their own environment.

STEP 1



STEP 2 & 3



STEP 4

The final idea was created by merging the clusters: a poster showing the effects of fast fashion and tips on how to avoid it. One of the tips is to mention a repair café in the neighbourhood. During this repair café, we provide a workshop on repairing clothing.