

ON THE SEESAW

Choosing a feasible idea

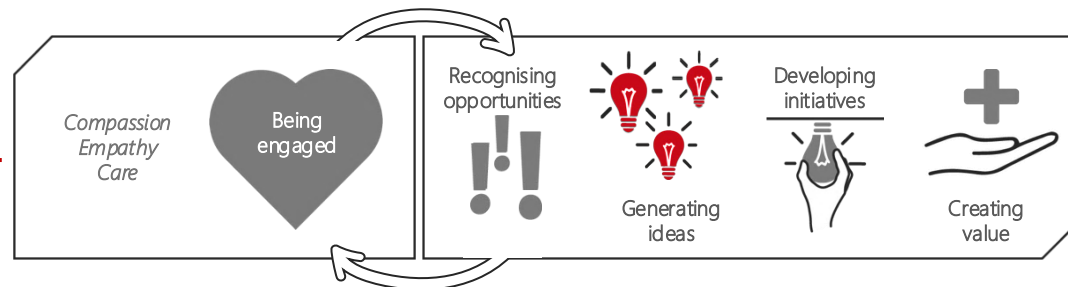
age 4 - 6

age 7 - 9

age 10 - 12



25 min



SUITABLE

- If there are several ideas.
- To arrive at a feasible idea based on criteria.
- To arrive at an idea with a long-term effect.

TIPS

- Appreciate rejected ideas too, e.g. by giving them a place in a project book.
- Use icons (✓, ✗, ~) or colour to clearly indicate the pros, cons and doubts for each idea.

MATERIALS

STEP 1

Collect and number the children's ideas on the board or visualise the ideas on large sheets of paper.

STEP 2

Pick two random ideas from the list. Ask the children to come up with arguments (pros, cons and doubts) for both ideas. Compare both ideas based on the arguments on the board and choose the best idea together with the children; the other idea is discarded.

- Before starting, discuss that the 'most fun' idea is not always the 'best' idea.
- Ensure that attention is paid to feasibility and long-term value when weighing up the ideas.
- If choosing proves difficult, clearly rephrase the situation/problem.
- If ideas are evenly matched, make a 'maybe' list that can be reviewed at the end.

Common criteria to consider include: feasibility, target audience, price, organisation, time, necessary assistance, and impact.

STEP 3

Repeat until one idea remains.



Example ON THE SEESAW

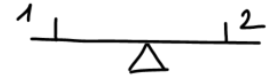
Context

During morning circle time, a child brought in an article from the local media. It reported that an elderly woman in the neighbourhood had fallen and cried for help for two days before someone found her. The ensuing discussion revealed that many children do not really know their neighbours. The teacher took this opportunity to have the children explore the neighbourhood. What they found was that there was little connection in the neighbourhood, no 'life' on the streets, neighbours did not know each other, some people regularly felt lonely, etc. The children then came up with ideas to create more connection in the neighbourhood.

STEP 1

Collect and number the ideas.

- Idea 1. Visit people in the neighbourhood.
- Idea 2. Organise a neighbourhood party
- Idea 3. Make the neighbourhood greener
- Idea 4. Collaborate with the local shop.
- Idea 5. Offer shelter animals to people in the neighbourhood
- Idea 6. Organise a 'neighbourhood day'
- Idea 7. ...



STEP 2

Which idea do you prefer and why (pros, cons and doubts)?
We prefer idea 2 to idea 1 because...



Idea 1	Idea 2
Visiting people in the neighbourhood	Organise a neighbourhood party
Each local resident separately → a lot of time	More people at once
You can be sure you can reach people	'Lure' people so that they come
Perhaps not everyone will let you in	shops want to help because they can also sell (e.g. food and drink)
One-off promotion?	One-off campaign.
Some children find this a bit scary.	You can help each other.

STEP 3

...
Compare the next idea with idea 2.
Keep repeating this.

