

RESOURCEFULNESS:

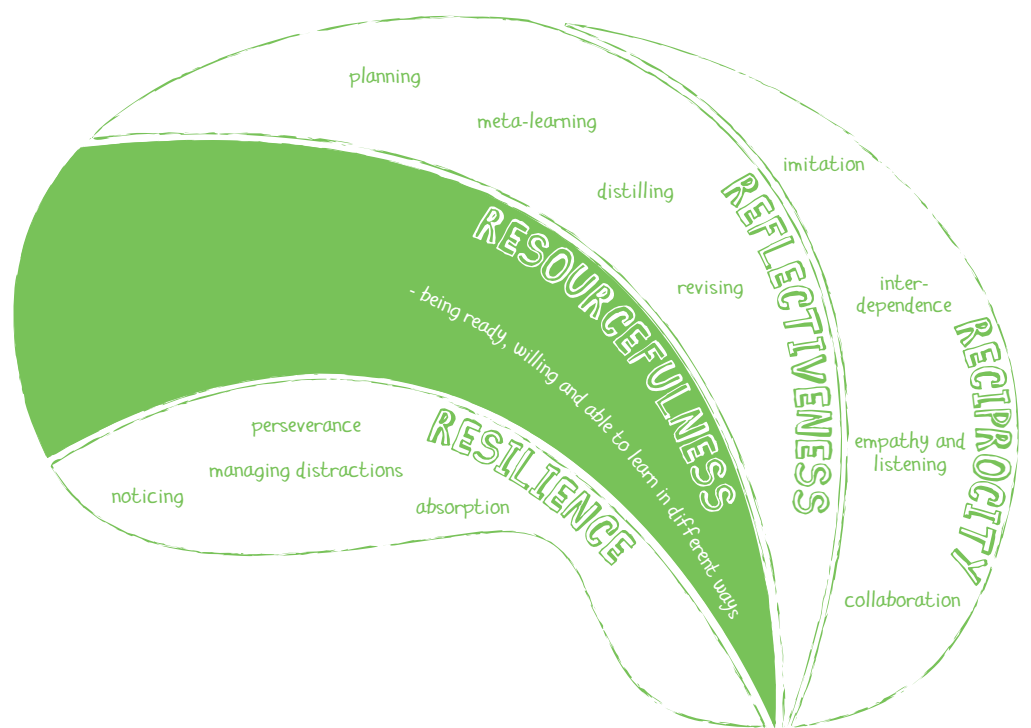
The cognitive aspects of learning; 'thinking'

The capacities that make up this disposition are:

Questioning Making Links Imagining Reasoning Capitalising

Imagining

Using your imagination and intuition to put yourself through new experiences or to explore possibilities. Wondering What if ... ?



How to make the most of the story; I SPY WITH MY THREE EYES

Aneeta and Nanda have been using their imagination without knowing about it. In this story their mum encourages them to recognise how their imaginations have helped them with a particular task.

In the early years talk about imagining is limited to raising awareness of the capacity that some children may already be using instinctively but with no realisation or understanding. The story focuses on visual imagining, although the children and their mum touch on the idea of imagining sound. Extended discussion could link imagining to other areas such as feelings (linked closely to empathy) and ideas.



After the story

Connecting questions

- What did mum ask Aneeta and Nanda to do to help her get ready for their birthday party?
- How were they going to show her what they wanted?
- Mum thought their pictures were very good. How had Aneeta and Nanda managed to draw such good pictures?
- Mum told them about their 'mind's eye'. What did she tell them their mind's eye could do? Can you remember the word mum told them for this?
- Aneeta and Nanda thought about how they had been able to make pictures in their heads when they drew things for the Magic Island in school. How were these pictures different from the ones they imagined for their birthday cakes?
- How did Aneeta's and Nanda's dad use his imagination?

Transferring questions

- Do you think that you have a 'mind's eye' as good as Aneeta and Nanda?
- How do you use your mind's eye? When do you find it useful?
- When they were trying to imagine their bedroom Aneeta and Nanda closed their eyes. What helps you to use your imagination?
- Have you used your mind's eye to make pictures of things that are not real or to imagine things you have never seen?
- What might help you to be even better at imagining?

I SPY WITH MY THREE EYES

A story to introduce: **Imagining**

Aneeta and Nanda are twins and this means that they have their birthdays on the same day. It was nearly time for their birthday and they were getting very excited. Mum had asked them to think about who they wanted to invite to their party and also to think about their birthday cake. They were going to have two birthday cakes, one for Aneeta and one for Nanda. Mum was going to be very busy. She told them that it wouldn't take her long to bake the cakes but decorating them both would be a bigger job, so she wanted them to tell her exactly what they wanted so that she could start to plan what she would need.

They had just got home from school when mum reminded them that they still hadn't told her about their cakes.

"I really do need to know," she told them, "and if you don't tell me soon I won't have time to do anything special – it'll just be candles and Happy Birthday."

"I want a garden cake," said Aneeta, "with lots of flowers. Can you do that mum?"

"I think I could," said her mother, "but you'll need to tell me a bit more about how you want it to look. If I give you some paper could you draw it for me?"

That sounded a good idea so mum got paper for Aneeta and Nanda and she even drew a circle on each one.

"That's the top of the cake," she said, and then she drew some rectangles. "That's where you can show me what you want around the sides of the cake."

So both girls went off to fetch their very best coloured pens and pencils.

"If you're going to have a garden cake then I'm going to have a farm cake, with lots of animals," announced Nanda.

They worked very hard at drawing just what they wanted their cakes to look like. Aneeta drew little flowers in all different colours around the edge of the circle, which was the top of the cake. Then she drew a twisty line from one edge of the circle to the other and then drew another line beside the first.

"That's a garden path," she said.

One side of the path she coloured all green – for grass – and on the other side she drew a shape like a circle but with wavy edges.

"That's a pond," she said.



"I'm having a pond too," said Nanda, "and I want some ducks on it. We've got some ducks in our farm set that mum can use."

Nanda drew walls and fences – "To keep the animals from getting out" – and even a little building.

"That's a little house for the pigs," she said.

When mum came back into the room a little later she was so surprised to see the lovely cake pictures they had made.

"What interesting pictures you've done," she said, "I can see I'm going to be very busy. But how did you get such good ideas?" she asked them.

"Well I could see my cake," said Nanda, "so I just drew what I could see."

"Did you use one of your books for the picture of the farm?" asked mum.

"No," said Nanda, "I could just see it in my head."

"Me too," said Aneeta. "I could remember Auntie Anna's garden. I could see it too. I thought my cake could look like that."

Mum told them that they were very clever.

"Did you know that you had three eyes?" she said.

"No we haven't." The twins both laughed and pointed to the eyes on their faces. "One, two," said Aneeta. "We've only got two!"

"If you can see those pictures of the farm and the garden then I think you have an extra eye. People sometimes call it your 'mind's eye'. Did you know that?"

The girls hadn't heard of a 'mind's eye' before.

"It's like an eye inside your head that helps you to see things when they aren't actually there. You could see a garden and a farm – we aren't in a garden or a farm – but your mind's eye helped you to see them."

When they stopped to think about it, Nanda and Aneeta realised that they often used their 'mind's eye'. Just last week Mrs Sharma had asked everyone in the class to think about a Magic Island with strange and colourful trees and plants and fantastic animals and birds. Nanda had painted a tree with fruits of all different colours – pink and orange and purple and yellow. Aneeta had drawn birds with brightly coloured feathers and long, long jewelled tails. All their pictures had gone up on the wall about the Magic Island. And where had their ideas come from? Well Nanda and Aneeta had been able to see the fruits of the tree and the brilliant, magical birds using their mind's eye, just as they had been able to imagine what their special birthday cakes might look like.

"Can you have a mind's ear as well?" Nanda asked.

"I suppose you can," said mum, "when you can hear things that aren't there. I can often hear songs in my head when it's really quiet so that must be my mind's ear working hard."

Mum told them that there was a proper word for this. If you could see pictures in your head, or perhaps hear sounds too, then that was called 'imagination' and being able to imagine sights and sounds was a very useful thing indeed.

"I don't think dad could do his job very well if he wasn't good at imagining. Nanda and Aneeta's dad was a builder and he built lots of houses. "When dad starts a job he just has piles of bricks and cement and wood and pipes and all the other things that a house needs, but dad has to be able to see, with his mind's eye, what the house will look like in the end. He really has to be good at imagining."

After tea Nanda and Aneeta did some more drawing for their cakes until mum came in.

"I want you to do some imagining," she said. "Can you see your room upstairs? What can you see?"

Aneeta and Nanda both closed their eyes.

"I can see the curtains with the flowers; they're pink and yellow and orange."

"And I can see the white walls and the picture of the kittens and the picture of the seaside."

"And I can see two beds and on my bed is my doll, lying on the pillow," said Aneeta

"Is there anyone in the beds?" asked mum.

"No," they both shouted, "they're empty."

"Well there should be," said mum. "There should be two little girls, come on, it's time for bed!"