

A pink and orange striped bag with the text "Grab Bag" overlaid. The bag is the central focus, with a pink body and orange and yellow stripes. The text "Grab Bag" is written in a large, orange, outlined font in the upper center. Below it, a paragraph of text in italics describes the bag's purpose.

Grab Bag

The “Grab Bag” is a collection of reflective visual tools which aim to stimulate and engage educators such as mentors and/or teachers in a reflective and reflexive practice. The visual reflective tools found in the “Grab Bag” are best done in collaborative groups guided and supported by a Critical friend or they can be used by individuals for personal reflection.

Themes

The visual reflective tools (activities) are grouped in themes. These themes are relevant for educators in any stage of their practice, those beginning their career or experienced, in middle management or principals. There is no established order to the activities, they can be done as a stand-alone activity or done in conjunction with other activities. Furthermore there is no need to complete all of the activities.

1. Reflective Journal - is a powerful tool for reflection. A place to collect the completed activities and additional reflections.

Collaboration

2. Pass the drawing

Time management

3. Container of time - drawing activity
4. Rocks, pebbles and sand data collection activity focuses on the actual things that need to be done
5. Rocks, pebbles and sand as visual representations focuses on how we feel about the things we do.

Work relationships

6. Reflecting on work relationships
7. Email communication

Personal Philosophy

8. Drawing metaphors

Determining needs

9. Y-Chart
10. Pros, Cons and Questions

The role of the Critical friend

- Create a timetabled *space* about 45minutes within the school day for educators to meet regularly ongoing reflective practice.
- Consider the composition of the group to encourage sharing of ideas.
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained between the members of the group.
- Facilitate the making activities but also to take part in them wherever possible.
- Ask open ended questions and do not presume certain answers.
- Guide, refocus and draw together the main points of discussion.
- Support and ensure all in the group have a voice.
- Be a model of and encourage active listening.
- Work together to clarify and refine ideas.

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