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ENCOURAGING CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE THINKING IN SCHOOLS

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SKILLS BUILDER

A. EVALUATE HOW SKILLS BUILDER WEBSITE CAN BE USEFUL FOR TEACHERS CONCERNING ENCOURAGING AND INNOVATIVE THINKING IN SCHOOLS



Skills Builder can be useful in two different ways for teachers. First, it can be used as a self-construction tool. As such, teachers can develop their own creativity and reflex of its implementation in lessons. I believe that building our own personalities will ultimately make their way in the classroom. On the other hand, this can also become a base to create new teaching ideas and involve the students in a more realistic, creative and inclusive perspective.

1. EXPLORE THE SKILLS BUILDER WEBSITE, WE MENTIONED ON LAST SEMINAR : GO THROUGH ALL 16 STEPS. WRITE DOWN HOW THIS TOOL (CRITERIA, STEPS, METHODOLOGY) CAN BE USEFUL FOR DEVELOPING CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE THINKING IN SCHOOLS AND HOW YOU COULD USE IT AS A TEACHER.

This tool has multiple purposes and can be used in various settings relating to schools. First, regarding lesson design, the website can help teachers to discover and test out innovative ways of teaching. This tool should be first used as a checklist. Therefore, allowing teachers to acknowledge what is lacking and how to provoke a change. Creativity in classrooms allows a whole new environment for learning: movements, authentic contexts, games... Imagining creative skills is not always an easy task, therefore a tool like Skills Builder can provide guidelines based on the teachers' and students' needs. Additionally, a breakthrough will be to implement this tool in the training of the staff, which already allows them to use creative thinking and expression as a base and not a supplement.

Concerning learning activities themselves, teachers have access to a range of ideas that might have never crossed their minds. They could also discover original techniques or methodologies that were, until then, unknown like storytelling, movement or project-based education...

Then, the classroom climate can be improved by using emerging approaches to connect learners. For example, creative group work can strengthen communication and connection among students. Allowing classmates to reflect on their work and their peers' work will develop their critical thinking and bring out a safe and healthy learning environment.

Furthermore, assessment and feedback will be seen in a fresh light. Teachers might include originality points as a part of the grading process. In addition, self-reflection tools enable students to build up their self-esteem, renew their desire to learn and learn about their strengths and weaknesses, which will also make the improvement more effective.

Finally, this tool contains a lot of benefits related to the well-being and evolution of the students as future citizens of a constantly changing world. Creativity supports innovation and problem-solving. Moreover, learners are encouraged to collaborate to complete more difficult tasks. This tool develops a growth mindset and facilitates the development of the learners in our society. This tool is beneficial for students and teachers as individuals and as a group to enhance learning with creativity and knowledge.

CREATIVE PERSON

- 1. THEN WRITE A SELF-REFLECTION ABOUT YOU AS A CREATIVE PERSON. YOU CAN USE 16 STEPS MENTIONED ABOVE IN SKILLS BUILDER. QUESTIONS THAT MAY HELP YOU: WHICH SKILLS HAVE I ALWAYS HAD? WHICH PARTICULAR SKILLS HAVE I IMPROVED DURING THIS COURSE? WHICH SKILLS WOULD I LIKE TO ACQUIRE/PRACTICE NEXT YEAR? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT IN MY FUTURE PROFESSION / IN MY LIFE / IN THE 21ST CENTURY? HOW WILL I DO IT? WHAT CAN HELP ME TO DEVELOP THIS PARTICULAR SKILL?**



When I was a child, I used to love creative and imaginative activities. My mom and I spent a lot of time experimenting and testing those kids' creative sets like making soap or building our own terrarium. I learnt so many skills, which went beyond physicality: patience, perseverance, collaboration and so much more allowed me to develop a growth mindset. Even though my childhood overflows with creativity, I lost a lot of its benefits throughout my life. I believe everyone, no matter how creative they were at one point, faces this throwback. Suddenly, you become self-conscious and you find artistic knowledge way less valuable. I started to "invest" less in my artistic side to focus more on academic and realistic knowledge. I abandoned one of the greatest parts of my soul. My spark.

Three years ago, I decided to change my major. I wanted to start fresh, rethink everything I believed during those years and finally listen to me as an individual. I chose to become a teacher. This choice was made according to my love of languages and kids, but I also think a part of me was looking for something that felt so out of reach. Creativity. The ability to express myself entirely without any boundaries and making it reachable and understandable to students. I never wanted to become a traditional teacher who only gives class in a lecture way. I dreamed of movement, project-based learning, storytelling, excursions, engaging and realistic work. I dreamed of a classroom full of individuals free to be themselves, who thrive by learning through their strengths and progress. As I started my journey, I realized I missed a crucial step in getting there. Imagination. I still considered myself a creative person. A lot of ideas were floating in my mind but putting them in the real world became difficult. Nonetheless, I began anyways. The more passionate I was, the more creative I became.

As I went on this journey to rediscover myself, I swore to never let anybody stop me again. I continued to work, day and night, on new ideas and concepts to make the classroom feel like I always wanted to. Alive. My efforts were paying off because the more I indulged in searching and creating, the less time I spent. A lot of my teachers tried to slow me down. They told me I went too far, that I would burn out soon if I didn't slow down. However, I knew deep in my heart that this was my way of teaching, of being. I listened to their critics and self-reflecting a lot on what I was doing, but I kept going. I thought about the younger version of me and her overflowing imagination. The kid I lost and found again.

Even though my passion and creativity came back, I knew I still had a lot to work on. I was deeply insecure, self-conscious and had low self-esteem. Nothing was perfect and everything had to constantly be redone. Then, in addition to building myself as a teacher, I opted to work on myself as well. I started focusing on my interests and finding what brought me joy again.

I have been on this journey for around 2 years now and I still must work on allowing myself to make mistakes. Though, this self-discovery reached a peak when I came to Prague. I found a new version of me: more patient, independent and creative. I learnt how to use curiosity and to not feel insecure in a group setting during my creativity classes. I am still struggling to let go and be completely myself. This year, I hope I can work on this aspect and try new activities. I want to expand my knowledge and my curiosity beyond my own imagination. This year I want to start sport again, rediscovering the feeling of water running on you and learning how to fight. Furthermore, I plan to try new hobbies: learning photography, taking language classes, trying pottery and other crafts. In the past, I related to people a lot to go out and discover new things. Even if I still want to share some experiences with friends, I also think I need to discover by myself. This year, I look forward to travelling, exploring and experiencing with friends, family and my own person.

