



Bo-Tree

WISDOM • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY • REFLECTIONS

Lateral Thinking

There is no doubt that creativity is the most important human resource of all. Without creativity, there would be no progress, and we would be forever repeating the same patterns.

-Edward de Bono

INTRODUCTION:

Lateral thinking is a term introduced by Edward de Bono in the book *New Think: The Use of Lateral Thinking* published in 1967; it refers to solving problems through an indirect and creative approach. Lateral thinking is about reasoning that is not immediately obvious and about ideas that may not be obtainable by using only traditional step-by-step logic.

In other words, it is about using your creative (right) brain to help solve problems or come up with new ideas that you wouldn't normally be able to do using your logical (left) brain.

OVERVIEW:

Thinking is perhaps the most significant mental activity in men. Whatever the human achievements and progress you see, it is all due to the thought processes in human brain.

Dr. Edward de Bono thinks that it is possible to enhance one's ability to think in a productive and result oriented manner. He believes that you can improve thinking just like any other skills. Like adults, even children will need to improve their thinking skills. It is possible to improve and enhance children's thinking skills by using Edward de Bono's lateral thinking processes.

The benefits of thinking are immense and numerous. By enhancing thinking skills in children, they can have the following benefits:

- Achieve those things that you think are impossible
- Attain social and emotional stability
- Attain a sense of physiological maturity
- Control anger and aggression in children
- Perform better in academics and classrooms
- Achieve excellence in any environment

To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle requires a creative imagination and marks the real advances in science.

-Albert Einstein

Edward de Bono believes that lateral thinking can help children achieve intelligence and smartness. According to him, there are two main types of thinking – vertical thinking and lateral thinking. There are several differences between these two types of thinking; vertical thinking belongs to high probability thinking, while lateral thinking belongs to low probability thinking.



Vertical Thinker

*Choose
Looks for what is right
One thing must follow directly from another
Concentrates on relevance
Moves in most likely directions*



Lateral Thinkers

*Change
Looks for what is different
Makes deliberate jumps
Welcomes chance intrusions
Explores least likely directions*

By using vertical thinking, you can choose and select the most possible, common and normal solution which is also logical and obvious. Most people use this mode to find solutions to their problems.

Zooming in:

There is a misleading belief that creativity belongs to the world of art and is a matter of talent and chance and nothing can be consciously done about it. Lateral thinking is specifically concerned with changing preconceived notions to bring out new ideas and can be acquired and practiced as a skill. According to Dr. De Bono, you can help children improve lateral thinking by making them apply different techniques in a deliberate manner. When your children apply the principles of lateral thinking, they can also learn a number of unusual techniques and methods like:

Apply the idea of alternatives

Apply focus and concentration

Face the problem as a challenge

Some of the most productive ways of encouraging lateral thinking skills in children is by providing different puzzles, riddles and mind games. These puzzles and riddles are an unusual way of developing new ideas to solve any problems. They also help you create and identify new concepts and ideas.

Children who use lateral thinking will always come with unusual solutions that are unorthodox as well. They can also make newer discoveries that are unheard or found. For children who are adept at solving problems by using lateral thinking, the causes of the problems are irrelevant and unimportant.

Lateral thinking is a very powerful tool that allows children to think and act outside the usual box. Developing lateral thinking offers a number of benefits and advantages. One of the most significant benefits is your children's ability to find solutions to any complex problems that are far more superior to other solutions.

References for further reading:

- www.edwdebono.com
- www.brainy-child.com