CLUSTERING
Reducing an excessive number of ideas
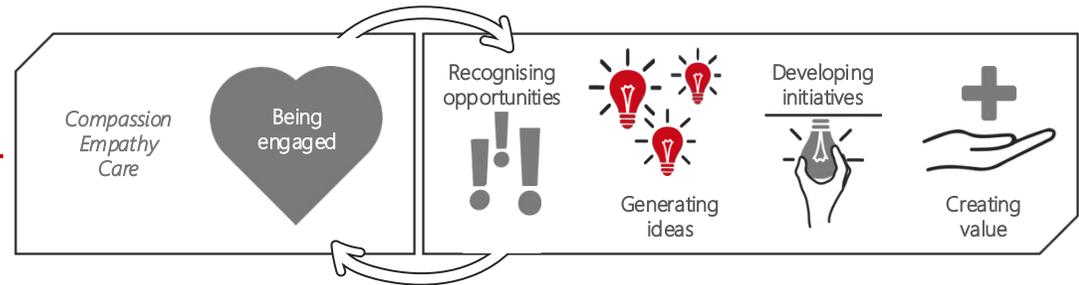
age 4 - 6
age 7 - 9
age 10 - 12

20 min

Compassion Empathy Care

Being engaged

Recognising opportunities

Generating ideas

Developing initiatives

Creating value

- If the children come up with too many ideas.
- To get an overview of the ideas generated by the class.
- To get a better overview of the ideas generated by the class.

TIPS

- Very special ideas can also form a cluster. Give unselected special ideas a place in a 'hall of fame'.
- Create an 'other' cluster for ideas that do not fit into any other cluster.

MATERIALS

Pens or coloured pencils, post-it notes

Source: ontwerpenindeklas.nl

STEP 1
Ask the children to write their ideas for solutions on (digital) post-it notes and collect these post-it notes.

STEP 2
Have the children group ideas that they think belong together into 3 to 6 clusters (e.g. stick the sticky notes together on a sheet of paper per cluster, move the sticky notes around on a (digital) board, etc.).

Helpful questions:
- Which ideas are very similar or the same?
- Which ideas solve the problem in the same way?
- Which ideas have the same theme, subject, place, time or are intended for the same target audience?
- Which ideas complement each other? Which ideas together form a complete and/or better idea?
- Which ideas are opposites of each other?

STEP 3
Give each cluster a name together with the children.
- What do these ideas want to change or do?

STEP 4
Work with the children to see if you can merge clusters into a single idea.
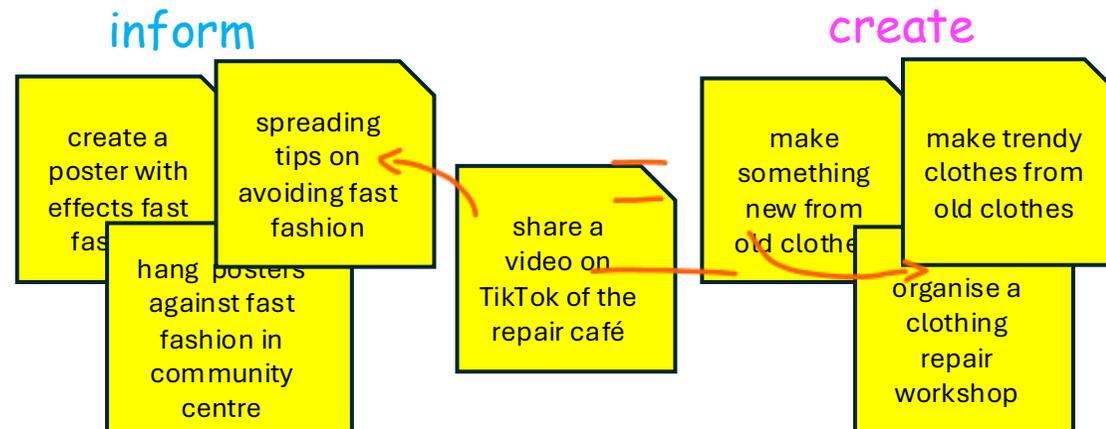
sociaal ondernemen in de klas

Example CLUSTERING

Context

Children often see delivery services driving around the neighbourhood with parcels for local residents. These often contain clothing that has been purchased online.

In a class discussion, the children note that many people around us want to buy clothing that is not (too) expensive. The teacher explains a little more about fast fashion, including its impact on the environment (transport, low quality, waste, etc.) and its impact on people in manufacturing countries (low-wage countries, child labour, etc.).The children came up with ideas about opportunities they saw to tackle this situation in their own environment.

STEP 1

- create a poster with the effects of fast fashion
- spreading tips on avoiding fast fashion
- Making trendy clothes from old clothes
- Share a video of the repair café on TikTok
- ...
- make something new from old clothes
- hang posters against fast fashion in the community centre
- workshop on repairing clothing
- ...

STEP 2 & 3

inform
- create a poster with effects fast fas
- spreading tips on avoiding fast fashion
- hang posters against fast fashion in community centre
- share a video on TikTok of the repair café

create
- make something new from old clothe
- make trendy clothes from old clothes
- organise a clothing repair workshop

STEP 4

The final idea was created by merging the clusters: a poster showing the effects of fast fashion and tips on how to avoid it. One of the tips is to mention a repair café in the neighbourhood. During this repair café, we provide a workshop on repairing clothing.