



MMI CONNECT

Feel the connection!

VOL 4

July 2019

Mind Mapping for children

Introduction

Tony Buzan, the creator of the revolutionary thinking tool “Mind-Mapping” transformed the way how schools, teachers, educators and parents help individual to unleash his/her unlimited potential to achieve optimal performance. He



restructured the ability to “how to learn” which he identified as “Mental Literacy”.

What is Mind-mapping?

A Mind Map is a graphical way to represent ideas and concepts. It is a visual thinking tool that helps organize and classify information. Diagrams are used to visually represent or outline information. It helps you to make a mental order of the information. Mind Map helps you to classify, analyze, comprehend, synthesize, recall ideas and regenerate new ones.

The human brain is divided into two hemispheres; the right and left brain. Each side represents different ways of thinking and processing. The left-brain dominant people are typically more logical, linear, sequential, objective, analytical, linguistic and mathematical. They can easily process letters, words, notations and languages.

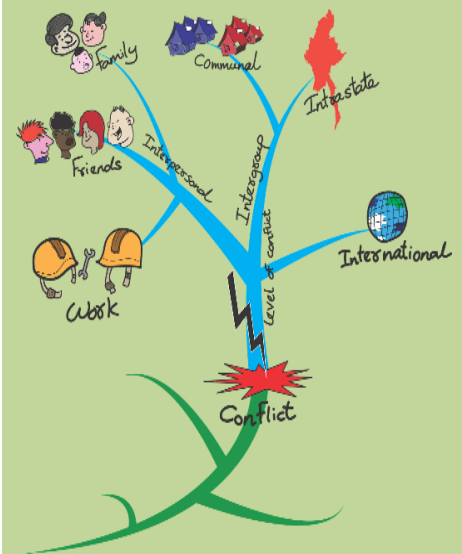
The right dominant people are mostly intuitive, imaginative, creative, holistic, fantasy oriented and visual. They use images, symbols, rhythm, space and colours to process their thoughts. People tend to lean to one side or the other in how they think. As for children, in many ways, the way children are taught influenced the way they think. Therefore, our environment and how we are raised our children have a strong influence on how they think; whether they end up as a right or left-brain thinker. For children to be creative, we need them to use both the right and left brain. Mind Mapping combines elements that appeal to both sides of the brain and therefore optimizes the brain’s ability to create and learn.



Copyright @ Modern Montessori International Academy

Montessori & Mind Mapping

The Montessori approach to learning is “hands-on.” From a young age, the child in Montessori uses the Montessori learning materials to help him classify his surroundings and create an order. It lays the foundation for learning by developing the ability to sort, compare, distinguish and discriminate skills necessary to understand his immediate world. This process helps children to make connections among ideas and develop their reasoning abilities. Montessori offers the most brain-friendly environment for a child.



Mind Mapping for children



When children in Montessori interacts with the environment, they take in all the impressions of the environment. These impressions are not meaningful to children until children are able to order the impressions. Similarly, for older children, Mind Map, allows children form mental map to organize and categorize information to make it meaningful to them.

As Doctor Maria Montessori stated: “Nothing goes into the mind that does not first go through the hands.”

When drawing a Mind Map, children are encouraged to do so by hands. Dr Maria Montessori said “A child’s hand is the strongest link to the brain” Children must sort out various ideas generated in the brain. It makes the children to think in a more organized way. When drawing the Mind Map’s branches children are led to make association and analyzing it relationship.



How does mind mapping helps a child?

Mind Map requires the child to use both side of the brain; the left and right side of the brain. Children think in “pictures and images” Children can use visual thinking tool to structure information, thus helping children to better analyse and comprehend ideas.

Mind Map is a way of thinking, based on the nature of the brain. It gives a child the greatest channel of openness and flexibility, starting from a central point and diverging from the centre. Mind Maps help young children to focus their attention on a topic, think about all the factors related to it. It helps young children understand the relationships and connections while exploring ideas and concepts. As they work on their own mind map, they get to foresee problems, practice to problem solve and unknowingly develop higher-level thinking. Our brain responds quickly and strongly to pictures. Visual information takes priority over all other information. Mind Map provides a lot of information that would be difficult to express by pure linguistic means. It appeals to children’s different learning styles.

Mind Mapping is the children’s secret weapon to help them remember better, generate creative ideas, improves grades, and having fun learning in school. Mind Maps work so well because they can be designed in a highly individual way, the greater the individuality of a Mind Map, the greater its recognition value for the child. Every Mind Map is a key that precisely locks the child’s thoughts.

How can Parents Induct children into mind mapping?

Mind Mapping is a technique based on memory and creativity and comprehension and understanding, so when the student or a child uses the mind map, they are using their brain in the way their brain was designed to be used, and so the mind helps them in all learning and cognitive skills. It simply helps them in what the brain does naturally.

Tony Buzan

Mind Mapping is a technique of learning that need to be cultivated by children naturally. It is easy to teach Mind Mapping techniques to children however the adoption only come naturally to them provided they have an environment that encourages brain thinking. Here are some tips that can help parents to guide their children to mind map.

- Allow children freedom to think. This will allow children to develop their own ideas. Parents may ask a variety of open and closed ended questions
- Provide your child with blank papers, writing and colouring tools. As parents, you may take the lead drawing the mind map or your child may lead to draw the Mind Map.
- When your child takes the lead, make your child draw while you read the story from the book.
- When you have completed reading and your child is done drawing, ask your child to use the Mind Map to relate the story.
- Through relating the story, you can see if your child has understood the concept.

