CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING CAMP

2013

REPORT

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And

All Volunteers and Organizing Committee

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Executive Summary

Subjects and Topics are tools to nurture an independent thinking mind - which will help them confront the many challenges they would face in the ever fast changing world. The future generations would need to be empowered to think for themselves to solve problems 'on-the-go'. Thus, any subject, within the sciences or the arts, if 'delivered' properly, is able to create this ultimate goal. With this in mind, ASTI embarked on the Creative and Critical Camp as its next step to help young people learn in a more meaningful manner. This pre-pilot project is to help ASTI build its own capacity by testing some of its assumptions and build effective materials before it starts the pilot program across the nation.

Students mostly aged between 10-13 participated in this pre-pilot camp with priority given to 2013 UPSR students. A total of 36 participants attended this fun-filled camp. The implementation was divided into 2 main sections. Firstly, a working group (or committee) was set-up to take care of the logistics, marketing and to organise the camp. Secondly, a content development team was set up to research and build the content and delivery methods for the camp. A total of 17 modules and sessions were developed for the 3 days and 2 night event.

Participants among others, engaged in critical thinking activities, thought power & concentration based activities, group discussions, and leadership & team-building exercises. Each section is designed to introduce the participants to the content and concepts of each section in an effective manner. We did not go into each section very deeply. We hope to develop some of the sections more deeply for the next stage of the camp (secondary/tertiary levels).

The program was rather intense but the participants had a good time and were engaged all the time. Our survey showed that the overwhelming majority of the participants were happy with the camp and felt that they had learn a lot of new things which they could use in their lives. They also realised that learning can also be a fun activity which could help them with their daily lives.

On behalf of the Working Committee and ASTI, we would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors for their donations and the volunteers for their time.

1 Introduction

Young people within the education system today have become spectators rather than participants in their individual 'learning journey'. For instance, this is done, by overwhelming them with the subject's "facts and figures" which they memorize for tests and exams and soon forget afterwards. It could be argued that education should help students awaken and expand their creative and critical mind by empowering the learner to take charge of his/ her education process. Subjects and Topics are then mere tools to nurture this new independent thinking mind - which will help them confront the many challenges they would face in the ever fast changing world. The future generation would need to be empowered to think for themselves to solve problems 'on-the-go'. Thus, any subject, within the sciences or the arts, if 'delivered' properly, is able to create this ultimate goal.

Thus, a camp, coordinated by a team of motivated experts who have extensive experience in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation as well Youth Engagement and Empowerment was organised to do test this hypotheses. This camp introduced the concept of thinking creatively and critically, of using logical & empirical reasoning to solve problems, of using competitive & collaborative methods to produce an outcome when making choices in many aspect of the participants lives. The methods were conveyed to them via indoor and outdoor lessons and fun activities in a "camp" environment.

2 Aims & Objectives

Among the main aims and objectives of the pre-pilot CCT'13 were:

- Help empower the young to think in both a creative and critical manner. It consists of presentations, indoor and outdoor activities to help the young build this capacity
- Build effective resources, guides, and know-how to make this a recurring camp for young people at various stages in their lives across the country

2.1 Target Group

This pre-pilot camp targeted young people aged between 12-14. Initially the target group was UPSR students who were awaiting their results. However, as the event was held later than planned, the age group was expanded but priority was given to 2013 UPSR students. A total of 36 participants attended the fun-filled camp.

3 Mode of Implementation

The Implementation of the project was as follows:

ASTI wrote the proposal and appointed two Project Directors and they in turn formed their Project Working Group to oversee and be responsible for the delivery of the project. ASTI remained responsible for the development of the overall policy and content of the project/program.

The Project Working Group:

- Managed the Content Development team logistical needs
- Identified and trained volunteers
- Identified the venue and determined the logistics for the event
- Ran the event
- Conducted a postmortem after the event and identified ways to improve the program
- Dissolved and passed the project back to ASTI until the next CCT Project Directors are appointed

The Content Development Team:

- Was an independent team to develop the content and the delivery method for the camp
- Each member of the team was allocated their respective areas to develop based on their expertise and subject knowledge
- The overall camp programme, the daily events and the individual sessions were established to ensure a proper content flow
- The individuals responsible carried out research on their allotted areas
- The individual session content was created
- Presenters and facilitators were identified and allocated to conduct the sessions and present the required content
- The Content Development team worked with the Working Group to bring all areas together to create the Camp

Participant Selection Process and Registration

- Flyers were prepared and sent out to all Tamil schools PIBG heads
- Telephone calls were made to selected schools headmasters and teachers to inform them of the project
- Application forms were prepared and uploaded on the ASTI website for download. They were also sent to all Tamil school PIBGs
- Application forms received were vetted for qualification and the participants were chosen
- Selected participants were sent acceptance letters and informed of the mode of payment
- Confirmed participants paid fees and signed waiver form
- Programme Booklet and various other necessary information was sent to participants
- Insurances was bought for all participants
- Participants arrival and the Camp began

4 Camp Summary

The pre-pilot project, Creative and Critical Thinking Camp (CCT) 2013 was a three day event which started on Friday afternoon and ended on Sunday afternoon. The details of the camp are as below;

Date : 29 November – 1 December 2013 ***(3 days 2 nights)***
Venue: De Palma Hotel, Kuala Selangor

DAY ONE – FRIDAY 29 November

The day started at 12.30 pm with the arrival and registration of the participants at the hotel foyer. During the registration, the participants received their nametag, camp grouping, T-shirt and camp-bag. The early-birds were participated in some activities while waiting for the other participants to arrive. The formal event started at 3pm with all participants having arrived.

There was a short briefing on camp safety and rules & regulations followed by a short briefing on the programme for day 2. The programme started with the participants seated according to their groupings of 7 per group. There was a total of 5 groups seated in 5 round tables.

There was an ice breaking session conducted for the participants by our facilitators which was to set a tone for the camp. This activity required the participants to immediately think out of the box from the very start and provided them with a taste of what was to come.

The participants were then involved in various indoor activities in the form of group presentations which was delivered in the afternoon sessions such as, 5 Reasons Why Humans Are Capable of Genius, Healthy Body and Healthy Mind, Boosting Your 5 Senses, Problem Solving (CSI). After the break, with the participants having freshened up and had their dinner at 7pm, the participants watched an enjoyable animated movie called The Croods.

There was a short discussion about the movie after the showing. Day one sessions ended with the participants having their supper. The participants then retired to their rooms. Meanwhile, the Event Committee continued with the setup preparations for the following day's sessions.

DAY TWO - SATURDAY 30 November

The full day's activities started at 6.45am, with the participants having their morning exercise led by Major Dr Vikneswaran followed by shower and breakfast. After breakfast and before entering the hall, the participants and organisers gathered in the field for a group photograph. The morning activities started at 9am and continued until lunch at 12.15pm with sessions on; Relaxation, Thought Power & Concentration, Speed Reading and Mind Mapping. After lunch and a quick warm up game the sessions continued with the subjects of; Creativity, "Who Am I?" book reading, and Boosting Your 10 Intelligences. Next, at around 4.30pm after a short refreshment break, the participants gathered at the foyer for an outing. Once seated in the arranged transport, which was a motorised train, they were briefed on the outing to Bukit Melawati and a Nature Park. The groups were given tasks to complete which included looking out for interesting and unusual sights and items. The participants returned to the hotel around 6.30pm and relaxed and had dinner. The evening session continued at 8 pm with; Lateral Thinking, CSI: The Verdict and Expressing Your Creativity. The participants then retired for the night after having supper around 10.30pm.

DAY THREE – SUNDAY 1 December

On the final day, at 8.00am, the participants, after another morning exercise session, gathered in the cafeteria for breakfast. Then, after a short warm up game, the sessions continued with; Brainstorming, Short Term Memory Tips and "Who Am I?" follow up. These sessions ended by 11.30am for the Certificate Presentations and Camp Closing Speeches.

The parents who had arrived early were invited into the hall for the closing ceremony. Each team was presented prizes for different categories such as Best Team, Good Team Work, Highest Scoring Team etc. A Certificate of Participation was presented to each participant, as well as a copy of the group photo as a souvenir. Project Director Ms Archina and the ASTI President Dr Yunus Yasin each gave a short speech and closed CCT Camp 2013.

5 Camp Programme Sessions

The following is a summary of each of the Creative and Critical Thinking Camp sessions:-

5.1 Session 1 *Ice Breaking*

Aim : *To help the participants feel at ease, set the tone for camp.*
Areas of Skills : *Creativity, Socialising.*

This starter allowed the participants to immediately think out of the box from the very beginning of the camp and provided them with a taste of what was to come. This was a different kind of ice-breaker since it not only broke the ice between the participant of the camp but it also set the stage for the event, i.e. it was not going to be a school-like environment. The participants did not introduce themselves to each other with their real names! They were instead given card and markers to create their own 'Avatar' and provide it with a name, mission and special power. Each card was illustrated with a drawing of a super-hero figure. The Card was then 'uploaded' to the Camp Network (a large white paper on the wall). The network was continually 'updated' throughout the camp by the participants who drew coloured lines from one Avatar to another which represented new connections they had made with the fellow participants and facilitators. The different coloured lines were; "New Friends", "*Fellow Group Members*", "*Avatars of the Same Species or Likes*" and "*Avatars with the same Mission*". This represented a 'low-tech' version of the modern day Facebook. Although it started off slowly, by the end of the 3 days the network was a series of many connections which provided visual affirmation that the children had made friends and shared ideas in their own way.

5.2 Session 2
5 Reasons Why Humans Are Capable of Genius?

Aim : *To trigger the participants creativity.*
Areas of Skills: *Communicating, Comparing, Synthesizing.*

Creativity is a human characteristic. It gives all humans genius-like capabilities. The characteristics which leads a human to be genius are; Boundless curiosity, Abstract thought, Unstoppable creativity, Favourable conditions, and Creative Surges. For each criteria, the presenter conducted an activity to highlight the participants natural ability to be creative and ability to understand complex concepts. If they were unable to solve the activities individually, then were are requested to discuss in groups. This session was mainly conducted to make all participants understand the objectives of participating in the Creative and Critical Camp 2013 and to realise their own true potential.

5.3 Session 3
Healthy Body and Healthy Mind

Aim : *To introduce super food and their benefit to participants, To pursue a healthy and active lifestyle and create opportunities for children to become familiar with healthy choices through games, crafts, and tasting challenges so that they will be more likely to make smart choices in their diet and activities.*

Areas of Skills: *Sensitivity, Reasoning.*

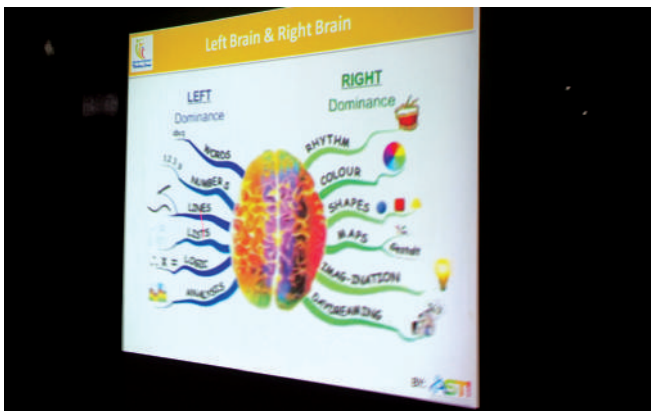
You are what you eat. Each participant was asked to list the healthy foods they eat at home every day together with the benefit of each. Most of them were not aware of their benefits. Then, 8 booths were prepared in different locations in the hall, each with different super foods, and they were: yoghurt, olive oil, sardines, whole grain bread, blueberries, tomatoes, baked beans and almonds. They had to eat/taste all the foods and name them, followed by listing the benefits of each food. The clues of the benefits were pasted on the pillars around the hall. The students enjoyed tasting the food and linking food with benefits. This would higher objective of eating rather than just for hunger.

5.4 Session 4
Boosting Your 5 Senses

Aim : *To acquire knowledge about the 5 senses of the human body which provide input to the brain, which are: sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing, To help develop stronger creativity via senses, and express an appreciation of the world around them through their new awareness of their 5 senses.*

Areas of Skills: *Sensory Integration, Analyzing, Interpreting.*

The input to our brain is coming from all our five senses: smell, sight, sound, touch and taste. Thus, to test the participants' senses, for each category, the presenter conducted an activity. Smells are very useful at evoking powerful memories and feelings. Our eyes contain 130 million photoreceptors which enable us to distinguish millions of colours and hundreds of shades of brightness, as well as size, perspective, distance, shape and movement. The human ear is made up of several parts which transmits impulses and 'feelings' to the brain. Our skin is the largest organ in our body, thus nerve endings in the skin and other parts of the body transmit sensations to the brain. Lastly, Human taste receptors are able to detect 4 basic tastes: salty, sweet, bitter and sour. There is also a 5th taste sensation, 'Umami', detected by taste buds sensitive to amino acids. The above 5 senses were activated through an individual activity conducted for each by the participants.



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5.5 Session 5
Problem Solving (CSI)

Aim : *Instil critical thinking.*
Areas of Skills: *Evidence Analysis, Critical thinking, Comparison,Reasoning, Strategizing.*

All groups of participants were briefed with the basic knowledge of Fingerprint Analysis and Handwriting Analysis. They made their own fingerprints and handwriting sample for reference during the presentation. During this session, they were exposed to how the comparison on fingerprints and handwriting are made to narrow down suspects in a criminal investigation. Interestingly, all the participants were able to describe their own fingerprint type and handwriting style. At the end of the session, groups were given a case study of a robbery in a bakery. Each group was given sample evidence and descriptions about the suspect, as a guide for them to identify the suspect of the crime from the facilitators. They were given 24 hours to solve the case. Group leaders were required to write all the evidence they had uncovered on a piece of paper and to submit it in a sealed envelope to the presenter by Saturday, 8.00 pm. Once all the evidence envelopes were submitted, a representative from each group explained to their fellow campers how they had reached their conclusions and named their suspect. The presenters acted as forensic cross-examiners and questioned the evidence presented to ensure the participants understood the process.

5.6 Session 6
The Croods Movie and Review

Aim : *Encourage thinking while engaging in everyday activities, To show creativity has no boundaries*

Areas of Skills: *Creative thinking , Critical thinking, Comprehension, Discussions, Synthesis, Cooperative Action.*

This session was shown as the evening activity after dinner. The reason for showing it on day one of the event was to enable the participants to be conscious of the idea that creativity has no boundaries. The cartoon film was visually imaginative, the characters – a family called the Croods – although from the caveman period made a real connection with the participants. The main storyline was how we react to, adapt and finally accept change. There were also many sub messages throughout the entire film. The following are just a sample of concepts discussed after the screening; Importance of family, being innovative to solve problems, understanding the other, overcoming fear, accepting change, being in control of your own life, never giving up, working together, listening to the right advice, and believing in yourself. Each group discussed and reflected on the film and acted out or presented a scene that had made an impact on them. They all expressed that they had enjoyed watching and thinking about the movie.

5.7 Session 7
Relaxation

Aim : *To provide a brief but effective and convincing training in relaxation, To introduce methods on using relaxation methods effectively in their daily life.*

Areas of Skills: *Concentration, Focusing, 'Emptying the mind', Ability to follow instruction.*

Practicing a relaxation technique is a statement from your mind to your body that you feel safe and secure in the world. The body can then switch off the adrenaline, saving you enormous amounts of energy and reducing 'wear and tear' on your body. The body can then refocus its energy on repair and regeneration. For this session, all the participants were exposed to mood management and deep relaxation. The presenter did step-by-step movements to bring the participants to a relaxed mood within them. This session is to educate the participants how to release stress after exhausting (both mind and body) activities throughout the day.

5.8 Session 8
Thought Power and Concentration

Aim : To make the participants realize and understand the power of thought and concentration.

Areas of Skills: *Concentrating, Focusing.*

Thought power is the key to creating your reality. Everything you perceive in the physical world has its origin in the invisible, inner world of your thoughts and beliefs. To become the master of your destiny, you must learn to control the nature of your dominant, habitual thoughts. By doing so, you will be able to attract into your life that which you intend to have and experience as you come to know the 'Truth' which is that your thoughts create your reality. It takes hard and persistent work to translate creative ideas into reality, and this work takes concentration. Concentration is the powerhouse of memory. Based on these conditions this session was found vital. A few techniques were instilled to guide themselves to be able to concentrate.

5.9 Session 9
Speed Reading

Aim : *To introduce effective speed reading.*
Areas of Skills: *Speed reading, Synthesizing, Interpreting, Memorizing, Processing speed, Cooperative action.*

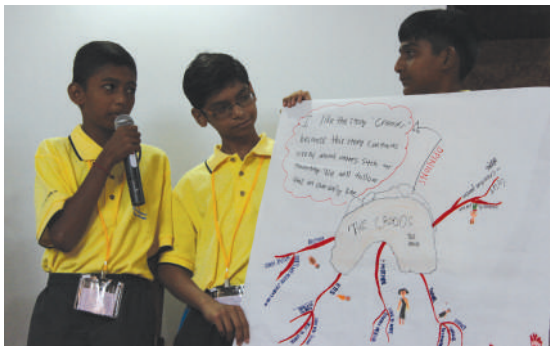
Speed readers select words, and they read groups of words. Rather than reading from left to right, speed readers will move their eyes up and down the page to find the important words. Their motive is not to understand every word, rather it is to seek answers. To introduce this skill to all the participants, they were shown a paragraph on screen for 90 seconds. Then the participants were asked to discuss in groups what they read and make notes of the main points. They then expressed what they had comprehended in the paragraph in an art form. Several tips were also shared on how to improve reading speed and comprehension. The other form of expression besides art they could choose was acting.

5.10 Session 10
Mind Mapping

Aim : *To guide and teach the participants in how to develop an effective mind map.*

Areas of Skills: *Analytical thinking, Interpreting, Creativity, Connecting, Visualising 'Big Picture"*

Process of strategic, creative, critical, analytical thinking and decision making has been transformed radically with the advent of mind mapping. A mind map is a hand drawn diagram used as a creative memory tool as an alternative to note-taking. Groups were provided with marker pens of various different colours and mahjong paper to come up with a mind-map on the movie 'The Croods'. The basics tips on how to create a mind-map were shared beforehand. The students came up with brilliant work and at the end of the session although there were similar maps between the groups, there were no two mind maps that were exactly alike in their content.



5.11 Session 11
Creativity

Aim : *To encourage the participants to inculcate creativity in delivering and presenting a topic or in communication.*

Areas of Skills: *Creativity, Think out of the box.*

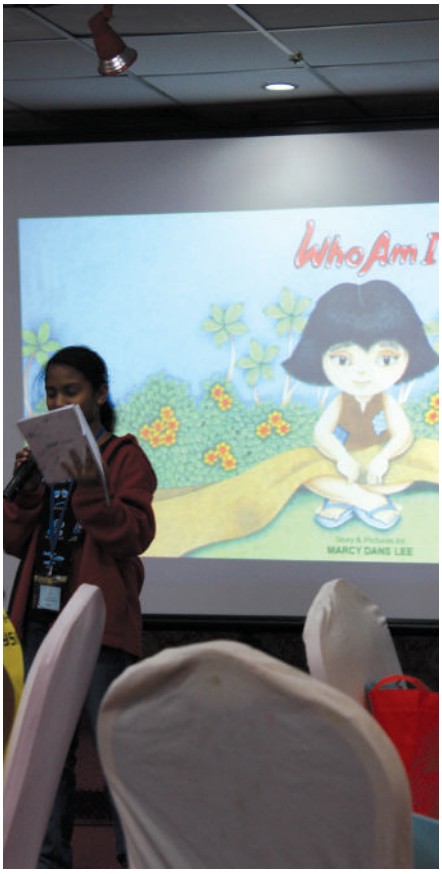
Everybody has the capacity to be creative. This session shared why some people produce a constant flow of new ideas and others don't. The participants were requested to first of all think about what they might say to a tree, if they could talk to trees. Then as a group they created a conversation with some being trees and others humans. They then had to say the conversation in front of everyone to hear. All the groups had their own creative way to present the conversation with some making props and others using imaginary props.

5.12 Session 12

WHO AM I (Understanding Yourself-Empathy for Others)

Aim : *For participants to understand the meaning of empathy*
Areas of Skills: *Understanding, Listening, Feeling, Creating, Concentration, Cooperation, Understanding Values - Empathy*

This session was aimed at reaching the inner feelings of the participants. To alert them to their sense of self and how they live and feel. At the same time to try to reach them on a deeper level in the hope that they would understand that others may not be feeling or living the same as they are. Also that being different or knowing someone who is different from you is not something to be afraid of or to make fun of but to try and understand and care for. The story of the daily life of an orphaned street girl called Maya was used as the tool to get the idea of having empathy towards others across. The follow up activity was for the participants in their groups to create their own ending for the story of Maya. This was presented the following day before the end of the Camp.

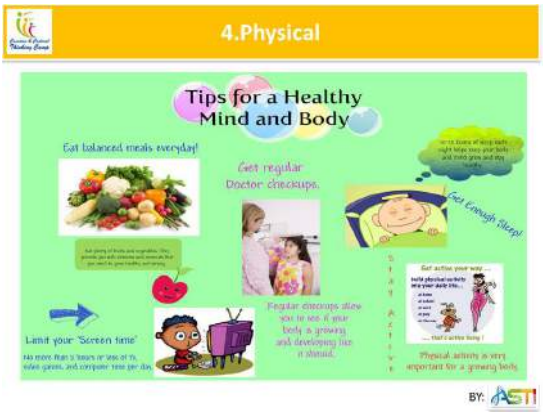


5.13 Session 13
Boosting your 10 Intelligences

Aim : *Enhance the 10 intelligence in participants which is a conducive to release the creativity within.*

Areas of Skills: *Problem solving, Analyzing, Physical ability, emotional control, alertness, communicating, interpretation, hypothetical.*

It is now accepted by many experts that the IQ of human beings is comprised of more then 1 area of intelligence. This session divided them into 10 areas of intelligence. These are Mathematical, Practical, Visual, Physical, Social, Emotional, Linguistic, Musical, Spiritual and Environmental. For each intelligence, the presenter conducted an activity to demonstrate and at the same time train the participants to trigger the 10 intelligences within themselves.



5.14 Session 14
Lateral Thinking

Aim : *To enhance the creative and critical thinking in participants.*
Areas of Skills: *Brainstorming, Creativity, Criticality, Thinking out of the box, Competition vs. Cooperation*

Lateral thinking is to think indirectly and use a creative approach, using reasoning that is not immediately obvious and involving ideas that may not be obtainable by using only traditional step-by-step logic to solve a problem or find a solution. As the activity, participants were required to choose an object and write down as many possible uses of the object as possible. This was time based and repeated over and over again and each time the participants added uses to the list. Then the items with the most uses in each group was chosen and all members of the group worked together to add more uses for the object and then they presented it to everyone.

5.15 Session 15
Expressing Your Creativity

Aim : *For participants to develop their creative skills through choreography, to boost confidence, to take participants completely out of their comfort zone.*

Areas of Skills: *Confidence, Communication, Cooperation, Rhythm, Coordination, Creativity, Presentation, Having Fun*

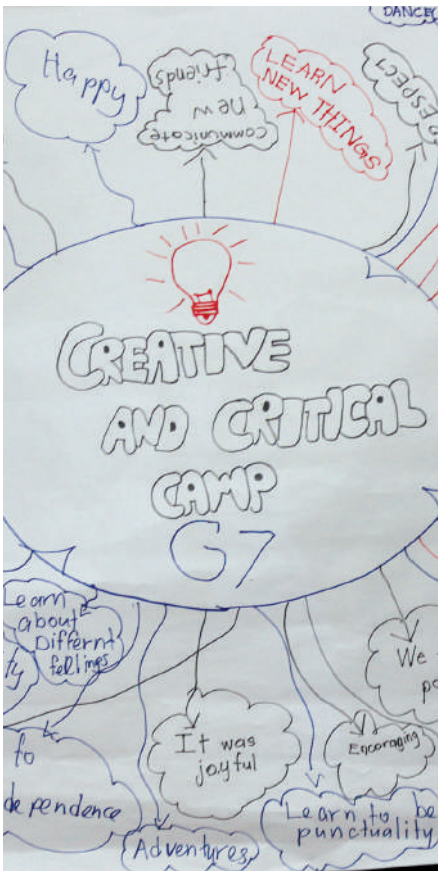
The participants in their groups were given 5 different dance moves and 2 directional moves in a card chosen randomly and asked to create a short dance to accompany a piece of music with these moves. A video example was shown to give them a feel of what to do. The music chosen was a lively popular piece of music which they all knew. Each group was then asked to perform their dance in front of the others for 2 minutes. Although before they started they all complained and thought they couldn't do it, by the end of the session they all managed it and it achieved its aim of instilling belief in oneself and having the confidence to do their best at something even if it is out of your comfort zone. Towards the end, the participants were reluctant to stop!

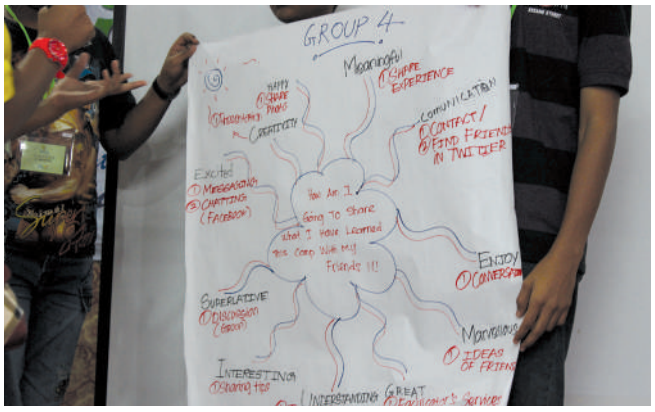
5.16 Session 16
Brainstorming

Aim : *To initiate critical thinking based on the camping activities, as to summarize the sessions throughout the camp.*

Areas of Skills: *Brainstorming, Idea Generation, Mind-mapping, Synthesizing.*

Each group was requested to brainstorm on how once they returned home they were going to share what they had learned during the camp with their friends. Participants were encouraged to let their minds 'freewheel' so that new and original ideas would emerged. Tips on how to organize a productive group discussion and brainstorming were also explained and shared with the participants.



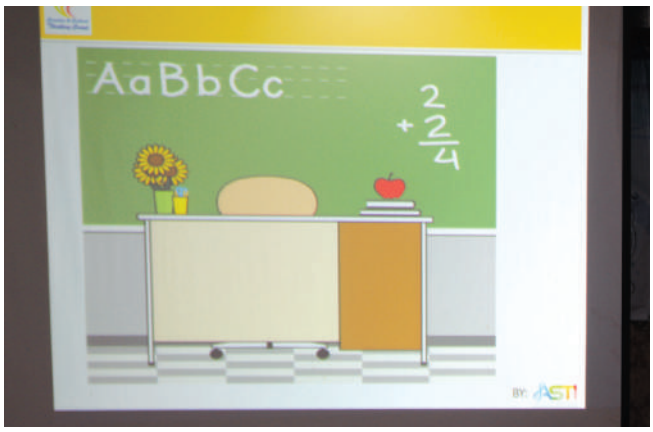


5.17 Session 17
Short Term Memory Tips

Aim : *To indicate the importance of short term memory and how it can be used.*

Areas of Skills: *Memorizing, Quick thinking , Eliminating.*

Scientists have discovered that the brain uses several means of remembering information for varying lengths of time. Short term memory was simply demonstrated with the use of two activities. Firstly a facilitator was asked to leave the hall. Then the participants were asked in quick succession many questions related to the appearance of the person. Next, an image was shown on the screen for a few seconds and questions were asked to describe the image. These activities helped explained the importance of short term memories and how it functions.



I like the story 'Croods' because this story contains useful moral values such as innovating. We will follow this on our daily life.
OPINIONS
THE CROOD
BROTHER
MOTHER
R.L. SEA CLUB
SEA TEAM

6 Camp Participants

Thirty-six (36) participants attended this fun-filled camp. The details of the participants are listed below;

No	Students Name	State
1	Yindumathi A/P Gunaseelan	Johor
2	V. Dakshayanie	Johor
3	Sanjay A/L Subramaniam	Johor
4	Sahmeeha A/P Poongan	Johor
5	Theinmollie Jayaraju	Johor
6	Oviiya A/P Theverajan	Johor
7	Dhinakharan A/L Raja	Johor
8	Cheralathan A/L Arumugam	Johor
9	Krishna Logasimman	Johor
10	Narmatha A/P Murugesu	Perak
11	Sri Shashwin A/L Ramesh	Johor
12	Mohammad Basharullah Khan Bin Jafarullah Khan	Johor
13	Devya Darshini A/P Kumaresh	Perak
14	Sethumathavan A/L Ravi	Johor
15	Sharvin Rao A/L Bapu Naidu	Pahang
16	Sahathewaraaj A/L Ganesan	Negeri Sembilan
17	Mithran Ganesan	Pahang
18	Jaysrina A/P Mahalinga Moorthy	Johor
19	Tasratha Varman A/L Kumar	Perak
20	Jaysrini A/P Mahalinga Moorthy	Johor
21	Vishnuu Varmin	Johor
22	Sashivarma A/L Saravanan	Selangor
23	Dinesh A/L Kanasan	Perak
24	Janagan	Selangor
25	Nakulan A/L Thevarajoo	Selangor
26	Navaroshini A/P Balamuraly	Selangor
27	Yamuna A/P Davandra	Selangor
28	Shaanussri A/P Rajendran	Johor
29	Shamini A/P Muniandy	Selangor
30	Yogendra A/L Krishnan	Johor
31	Hareesh Kumar A/L Kalaiselvan	Perak
32	Kabilan A/L Raja	Johor
33	Harish A/L Suthahar	Pahang
34	Shanmugapriya A/P Gunaseelan	Johor
35	Sajeeth A/L Revindran	Johor
36	Raman	Selangor

5 Camp Evaluation

A daily survey was conducted to gather feedback from the participants of the event and the sessions. Before leaving the hall at the end of each day's sessions, the participants gave their assessment of each session. The survey results were then tabulated and all 17 sessions and their activities were assessed by the organisers for their suitability, length, and comprehension.

All the participants overwhelmingly agreed the CCT camp met their expectations and are eager to participate again. They also indicated they would recommend this camp to their friends and families.

There was a mixed reaction on the duration of the camp. Nineteen participants (52%) agreed that a three (3) day camp is sufficient while 17 participants (47%) recommended more days. (1%) was undecided.

Seventy-two percent (72%) of the participants rated the accommodation and hall as excellent. While 9% rated them as good. Less than 8% rated it as average or below. As for the food and beverage, 26 participants (72%) rated it as excellent while five (5) rated it as good and the remaining five (5) rated it as average.

As mentioned, a total of 17 sessions were conducted over the three (3) days. Six (6) sessions held on day one (1), nine (9) sessions on day two (2) and two (2) sessions on day three (3). Questions like "Was the session relevant to you?", "Was there enough time?" and " Was the topic interesting ?" including others were asked. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the participants rated "Was the session relevant to you" as excellent, while 14% rated it as good. Three percent (3%) rated it as average.

The most popular sessions and activities among the participants were as follows:-

- Trip to Bukit Melawati
- CSI
- Dancing
- Mind Mapping
- Relaxation
- Creativity
- Boosting your 5 senses
- The Croods Movie

Ninety one (91%) rated the trip to Bukit Melawati as excellent. They agreed it was interesting and well organized and hope for more activities similar to this.

"Fantastic", "Very Good", "Excellent", "Amazing", "Awesome", "Superb" and "Marvellous" were some of the superlatives used by participants when they were asked to describe the daily sessions in one word.

When asked if facilitators were helpful, 83% rated them as excellent while 11% rated as good and 6% rated them as average. Presenters received the highest rating as 89% of participants rated them as excellent while the remaining eleven (11%) rated them as good.

Based on the overall analysis of the survey answers, it can be concluded that the Creative and Critical Thinking Camp (CCT) 2013 was an overwhelming success. The sessions and activities were well designed and executed by the organizing team and presenters. This created an excitement among the participants which they clearly exhibited by requesting for more.

The CCT Working Group recommends that the Association of Science, Technology and Innovation (ASTI) should consider organizing more such camps. Especially in multiple locations throughout Malaysia so that more children can join and benefit from CCT.

8 Public Relations

Flyers about CCT camp were distributed to all the Tamil schools PIBG via email and also posted via hard copy together with an invitation cover letter. Additionally, the camp was also promoted to the general public via newspaper articles and social network Facebook.

During the CCT on 29 November 2013, ASTRO 360 covered the event and there was a broadcast on ASTRO Vaanavil. The participants, parents and organizers were also interviewed by ASTRO 360.

9 Funding

9.1 Funding

Our main sponsors for the Creative and Critical Thinking Camp 2013 were Yayasan MyNadi and Goldis Berhad. Besides each participant we charged RM300 to help to cover some of the project expenses. Y. Bhg. Datuk B. Sahadevan from National Land Finance Co-Operative Society also sponsored 5 students to participate in the event. We are extremely grateful to these funders whose generosity helped ensure the success of the event. An initial seed fund amounting to RM1000 was received from ASTI to help run this camp. The funds donated by our main sponsors are as follows:

No	Sponsor	Amount (RM)
1	Yayasan My Nadi	15,000
2	Goldis Berhad	5,000
	Grand Total	**20,000**

9.2 Financial Statement of CCT 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 October 2014,

Income	**2013 (RM)**
Mynadi	15,000.00
Participation Fee	8,700.00
Participation Fees (NLFCS)	1,500.00
GoldisBerhad (Dato Tan Chin Nam Foundation)	5,000.00
ASTI Seed Funding of Project	1,000
Total Income	31,200.00
Less : Expenditure	
Event Department	65.00
Accommodation, Meal & Venue	13,150.00
Prizes & Souvenirs	3211.70
Insurance	169.00
Printing & Promotion	962.26
Miscellaneous	186.35
Transportation	380.70
Rumah Tunas Harapan	600.00
Usage of office space and utilities- Paid to ASTI Secretariat	3000.00
Project officer salary and benefit for 2 months	4200.00
Part time project officer allowance for 2 months	1600.00
Total Expenditure	**27,525.01**
Excess of (Expenditure)/ Income	*3,674.99*
Income and Expenditure Account	
Total Income	**31,200.00**
Total Expenditure	***27,525.01***
(Deficit)/Surplus	*3,674.99*

Note: ASTI given an initial seed funding for the CCT Camp

10 Recommendations for the Future

The following recommendations are proposed for implementation for the next camp based on the internal post-mortem conducted between the Working Group and ASTI secretariat level.

10.1 Event Recommendations

- Appoint an event manager or emcee to be present throughout the event
- Develop warm up games, they were very helpful for time management
- Come up with different method of grouping of students
- Where possible, provide only healthy foods and age appropriate beverages for the participants
- The duration for some sessions could be improvised / reduced to avoid students' loss of interest
- Participants parents/ representatives must sign-out the participants before they are allowed to leave the venue once the camp is finished

10.2 Programme Recommendations

- Prepare activities which are suitable and can test the level of students' understanding.
- Presenters should do presentation with minimum number of slides and information on slides to allow for more interaction.
- Time duration needs to be improvised according to presentation content.
- Buy more books for suggestions on games.

10.3 Working Group Recommendations

- ASTI should take the initiative to conduct similar one day revised programs in Children's Homes or Community Centres in under privileged areas.
- Come up with security protocol from venue security system
- Promote CCT by increasing publicity in different network/media sources
- Emphasize in documentation and waiver form that parents must adhere to timing for collecting children after camp

10.4 Positive Feedback

Below is a selection of the positive feedback received on the pre pilot CCT Camp.

- Good team work among the facilitators and participants throughout the event.
- Kept and strengthened a good rapport with students/ teachers/parents of SFYC and existing networks.
- Warm-up activities were very useful to keep the participants focused between sessions.
- Collected further names for database on students who are interested in Creative and Critical Thinking.

11 Conclusion

As a per-Pilot project , the three day Creative and Critical Thinking Camp (CCT) 2013 which was held from 29 November – 1 December 2013 in De Palma Hotel, Kuala Selangor was a complete success. A total of thirty-six 36 young people participated in this fun-filled camp whereas the target was only 30 participants. There was a wide range of sensible and exciting activities arranged throughout the duration of the camp.

Participants engaged in critical thinking activities, thought power and concentration based activities, group discussions, and leadership and team-building exercises. They also participated in activities like movie review and games which required them to express their creativity. Perhaps the most rewarding part of the camp was seeing the expressions on the participants faces as they laughed and played and realized that learning can be fun. Also, to see their excitement and how much they enjoyed getting to know one another while working together as a group to find and understand the answers. Being challenged in their learning path enabled them to express the answers and themselves in a totally different way. We believe that, the principles of creative and critical thinking were successfully transferred to the participants through the programme sessions developed for CCT'13.

On behalf of the Working Committee and ASTI, we want to extend a heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors for their donations and the volunteers for their time. We also extend a special thank you to the media, television, and online for assisting us with building awareness of our CCT '13.

ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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