

## RESOURCEFULNESS:

The cognitive aspects of learning; 'thinking'

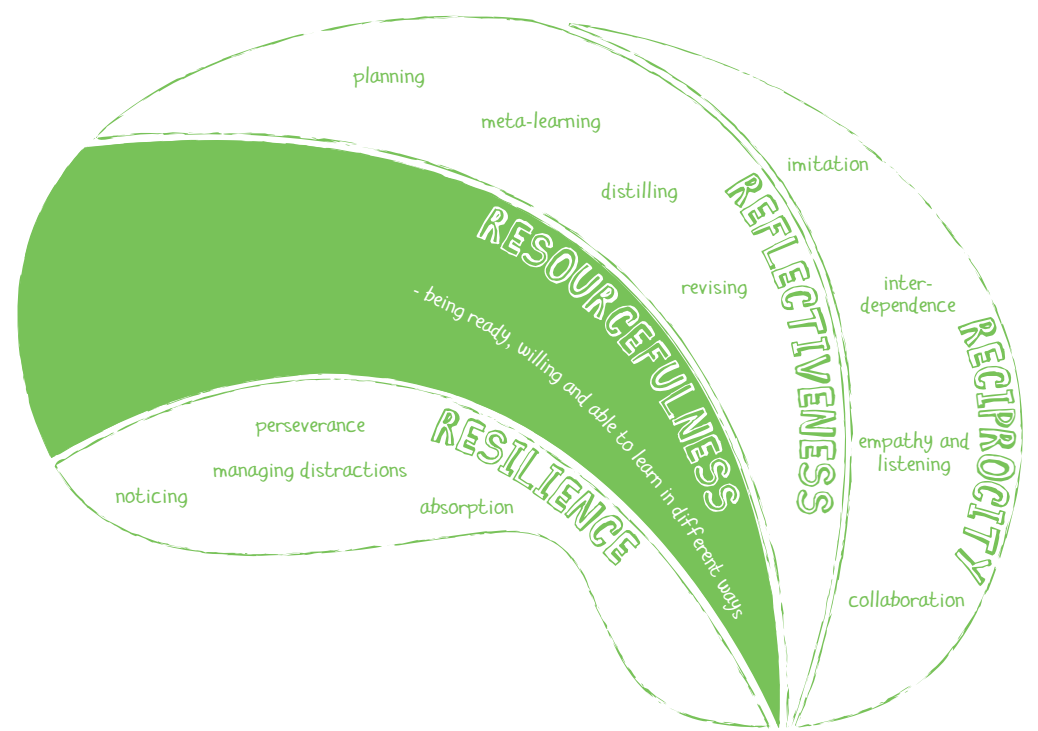
The capacities that make up this disposition are:

Questioning Making Links Imagining Reasoning Capitalising

## Questioning

Asking questions of yourself and others.

Being curious and playful with ideas —  
delving beneath the surface of things.



## How to make the most of the story;

### ALL THERE IS TO KNOW

In this story Gemma, Callum and their mum talk about knowing things. They realise that no-one can know everything and that the important part of learning new things is to come up with good questions.

### Talk about Questioning

The focus of this story is on curiosity. Mum reminds Gemma and Callum that they are able to find answers in different ways – listening to others, looking in books, going to find out for oneself – but the important skill is to be able to come up with good questions.

Questions that begin with 'I wonder' are particularly powerful.



## After the story

### Connecting questions

- Callum and Gemma's mum wasn't sure of the answers to their questions. What did Callum say?
- Callum thought his grandad knew everything. What do you think about that?
- What sort of things did Callum and Gemma want to find out about at the zoo?
- What did you think about mum's idea to write down their questions before they went on their visit to the zoo?

### Transferring questions

- Do you like to ask questions?
- Who do you ask?
- Do you sometimes ask questions in your head, without speaking them to anyone?
- Can you think of anything you have learnt by asking questions?
- I wonder what questions you are thinking of at the moment?
- Let's think of different kinds of questions like 'I wonder why...', 'I wonder if...', 'I wonder when...' etc. (these could be reproduced as a class 'question prompt' poster for you to refer to in the future)

# ALL THERE IS TO KNOW

## A story to introduce: Questioning

Gemma and Callum were watching a programme on television. They liked watching programmes about animals, and this one was all about animals who live in Africa. Callum liked the elephants. "Why have the elephants got big ears?" he asked his mum.

"I'm not sure really. Perhaps it's so they can flap them about to cool themselves down. It can be very hot in the places where they live."

"What sort of leaves do they eat?" Gemma asked.

"Oooh! I don't know that. If you listen they might tell you." Mum realised she didn't know a lot about elephants.

"How do crocodiles breathe under the water?" Now Callum was interested in the crocodiles he could see sliding off the banks into the river.

"Um. I don't think they do breathe under the water, but I'm not sure."

"I wish grandad was here," Callum grumbled, "Grandad knows everything. He could tell me about elephants and crocodiles."

"That's silly," Gemma snapped. "Nobody knows everything."

"Grandad does" said Callum. "Whenever I ask him something he knows the answer. He does, doesn't he mum?"

"Grandad's interested in all kinds of things, and he knows lots and lots, but I really don't think you could say he knows everything. Just think how much that would be. What would he have to know about – all there is to know about every animal in every part of the world; about the moon and the stars and the planets..."

"and the sea and the deserts and the mountains," Gemma interrupted,

"and about aeroplanes and cars and trains and boats," mum added.

Now Callum was laughing, "And flowers and trees and vegetables and fruit..."

Now it was becoming a game.

"and weather and football and cooking and, and...." And now they were all laughing.

"So I don't think even grandad could know everything about everything do you?"

Callum knew that now.



"But he does know a lot. He knows more than I do."

"Grandad's a lot older than you. He's been around a long time and all his life he's been learning new things. Every day we all learn new things. And one thing I know about grandad is that he asks lots of questions; just like you did when you were asking me about the elephants and the crocodiles."

"But you didn't know the answers," Gemma said.

"That's true, I wasn't sure, but it wouldn't be hard to find the answers – I'm sure you've got some books in your room where we could look. What was really great was that you asked good questions."

Then mum had an idea.

"I can think of another way we could find the answers to those questions. What about a trip to the zoo tomorrow?"

"Oh yes!", "Great!", "Whoopee!" Gemma and Callum really liked that idea.

"So how about planning our visit by coming up with some more questions you'd like to find answers to when we go to the zoo. You think of the questions and I'll write them down so that we don't forget them."

Mum got a note book and they all started to think of the things they wanted to find out about. They wondered how tall the giraffe was and what it liked to eat and how did crocodiles breath under water. Gemma wondered how many different kinds of monkeys they had at the zoo and mum wondered where the monkeys had come from.

Callum asked his mum about the penguins.

"Will we see penguins at the zoo?"

"Oh yes," his mum answered, "they've always been my favourites. I wonder what time they feed the penguins? We'll have to find out when we get there so that we can be sure to see them when they have their fish."

"Do penguins only eat fish?" Gemma wondered.

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“Do you think they’ve ever tried to give them something else to see if they like it?”

“What like crisps or apples?” Callum asked.

“I shouldn’t think so,” said mum. “Crisps would get a bit soggy in the water and I’m sure they wouldn’t be healthy for penguins, but you can ask the keeper exactly what they do eat”.

By bed time they had a huge list of questions for their visit to the zoo.

“If you can find the answers to those questions tomorrow then I think you’ll know even more about animals than grandad.”

Callum was still thinking about the penguins. “I wonder if they have a favourite fish they like to eat best?”

“You’ll have to ask the penguins that one,” said mum. “I wonder what sort of answer you’d get?”