
Activity 2

Developing a capacity or skills poster

Purpose

This activity helps to:

- Identify the skills, experience and qualities that people bring to a group
- Develop people's confidence in using those skills
- Work together as a team

Who will be involved

- Parent Advisory Council
- Teachers and the parents
- Parents and teachers from several schools who want to work together on an issue which affects them all

Step 1: Setting up the exercise

Nominate someone as a group leader to take people through the exercise. The group leader displays the poster and outlines the task. A sample poster is provided in the PDF file. There is an image of a person in the middle, and in each of the corners there is a heading. Give everyone a copy of the poster and explain what each heading means. Here are some tips:

What's my identity?

This is a 'who am I?' type question and can include anything people feel is important about them. What is their job; do they have any children; are they the person who everyone talks to, the office comedian, the problem solver?

What are my hobbies, interests and passions?

This should list all the person's hobbies and interests as much as possible.

What are my skills, talents and resources?

List all those things the person can do, is good at and enjoys. Also list all the people the person knows who might come in handy, along with any equipment or resources they have access to, i.e. they drive a car, have access to professional fundraisers.

What are my gifts?

This can be difficult for people to do themselves. Think about what friends or work colleagues say about you – why do they like you? People might say you are a great listener, someone to lean on or that you make them laugh.

Step 2: Making the poster – *allow 30 minutes for each person to fill in their poster*

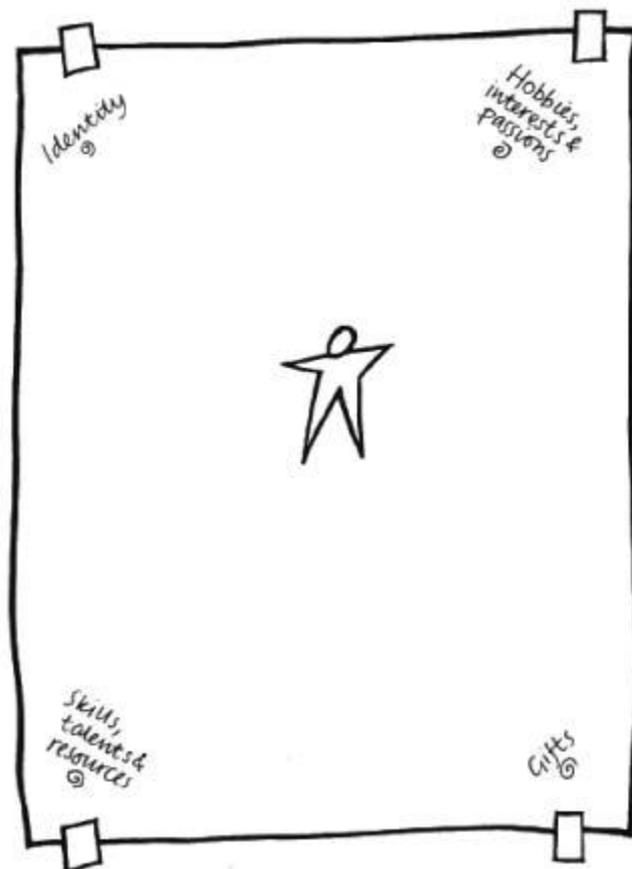
- Organise people into pairs. It is helpful if people work with someone they feel comfortable with

- Fill in the details on the poster prompted by questions from their partner if they get stuck. Ask open questions, e.g. “How would you describe yourself?” Remember to add your name to the poster.
- Answers can be written or drawn. For example, a flowerpot or a spade could be used to depict a keen gardener or a peaked mountain for a walker.

Step 3: Sharing and displaying the posters

After everyone has finished their work, hang the posters on the wall and let people walk round and see what others have put up.

In an informal way, people get the chance to see what the skills, abilities and contribution of other parents might be,



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