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COLLEGE

Creative Thinking for Inspirational Education

Weds 1st February 2012:
NAS Education Roadshow, Exeter

Colin Howarth: Development Manager

LUDLOW STREET
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LEARNING FOR LIFE THROUGH INSPIRATIONAL EDUCATION

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Creative Thinking...

Today's Content:

• To consider creativity as relating to the Triad of Impairments

• To consider concepts of creativity: social imagination vs imagination/creative thinking

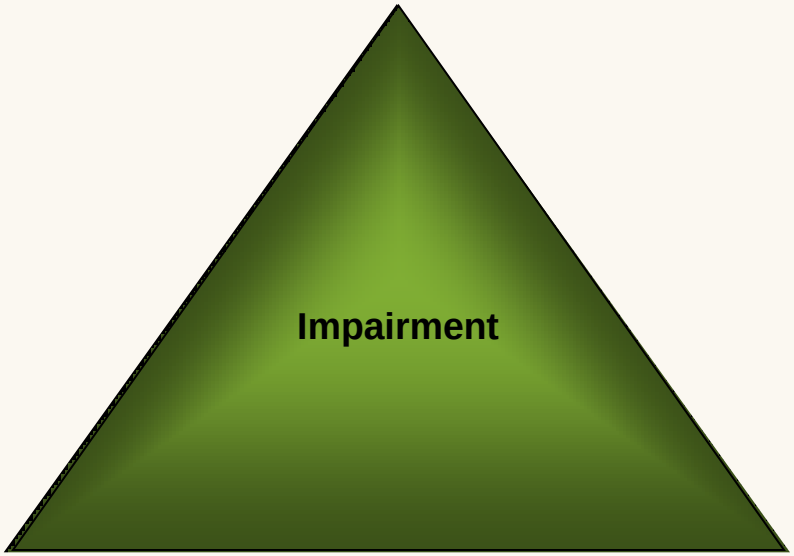
• Experiential learning and person-centred education

• To celebrate the creative abilities of those with autism

THE TRIAD OF IMPAIRMENTS

Lorna Wing and Judith Gould, 1979

Social and Emotional Interaction



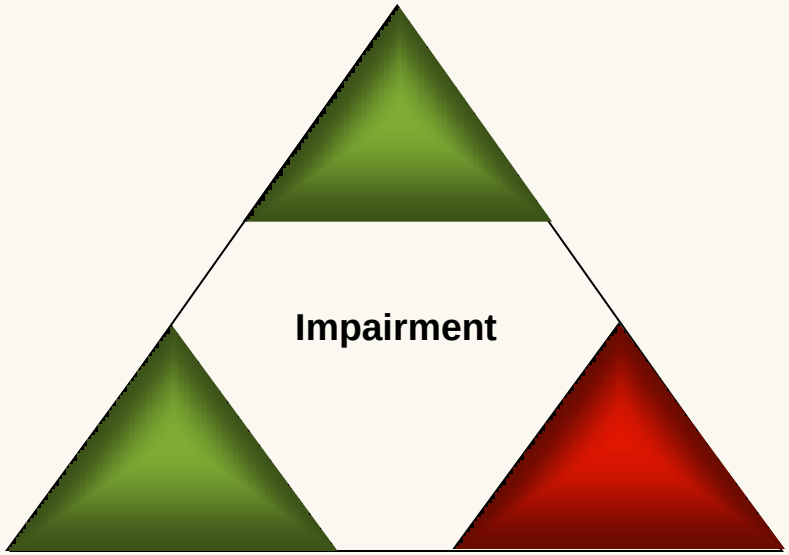
Social Language and Communication

Social Imagination

THE TRIAD OF IMPAIRMENTS

Lorna Wing and Judith Gould, 1979

Social and Emotional Interaction



Social Language and Communication

Social Imagination

Flexibility of Thought - Imagination & Creativity

THE TRIAD OF IMPAIRMENTS

Social Imagination – *Flexibility of Thought - Imagination/Creativity*

- Inability to play imaginatively with object, toys or with other children or adults
- Imaginative activities tend to be limited, copied (not created), pursued repetitively, rigid play of stereotyped nature
- Repetitive activities and special interests
- Fascination with certain topics

‘Impoverished Creativity’ in Autism:

‘Creativity and Imagination in Autism and AS’, Simon Baron-Cohen, et al. (1999)

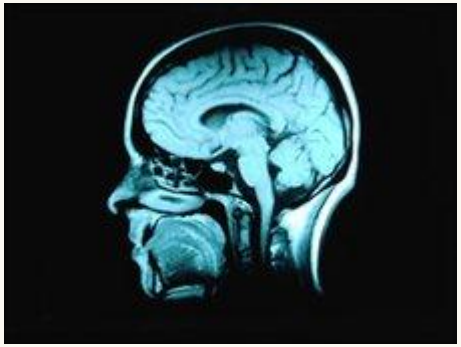
Executive Dysfunction and Imagination Deficit Hypotheses

- Higher brain function: planning, goal formation, attention, coordination of complex cognitive functions

- ‘Thinking outside of the box’, routine, ritual, narrow and repetitive focus

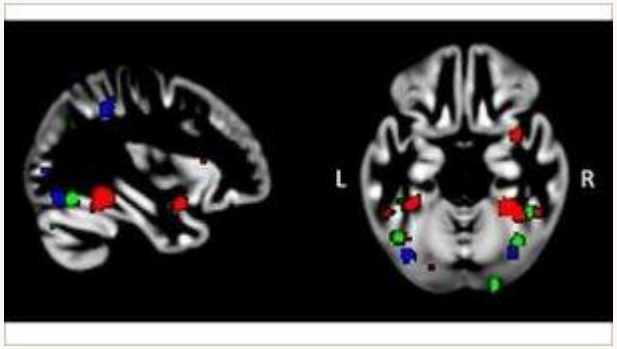
Autism and Talent

'Autistic Brains are Organised Differently say Scientists'
(BBC Article, 4 April 2011)



People with autism use their brains differently from other people, which may explain why some have extraordinary abilities to remember and draw objects in detail, according to new research.

University of Montreal scientists say in autistic people, the brain areas that deal with visual information are highly developed...That leaves less brain capacity in areas which deal with decision-making and planning.



Creative Thinking...

Creative Thinking vs Social Imagination

Creativity is the bringing into being of something which did not exist before, either as a product, a process or a thought.

You would be demonstrating creativity if you:

- Invent something which has never existed before
- Invent something which exists elsewhere but you are not aware of
- Invent a new process for doing something
- Reapply an existing process or product into a new or different market
- Develop a new way of looking at something (bringing a new idea into existence)
- Change the way someone else looks at something

Creative Thinking...

Welsh Prince, Oh Welsh Prince

Welsh prince, oh welsh prince
The rinse of your blades,
The lads who follow you great princes to the grave.
May our modern government take note of your greatness
And rate of your hearts
Oh great prince may your praises be sung
In bands of merry Welshmen.

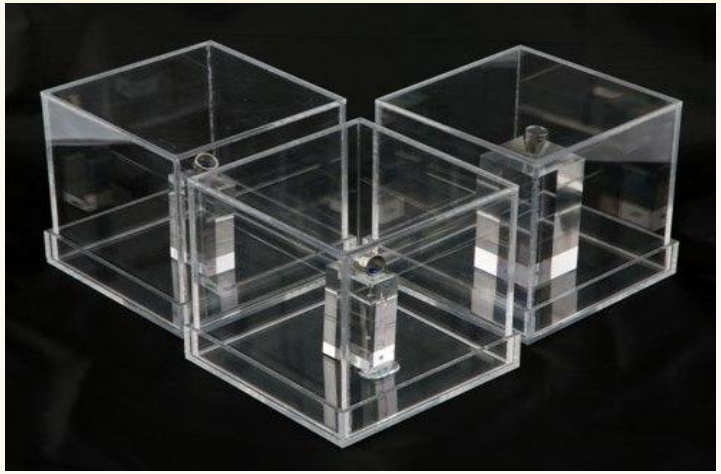
Creative Thinking...

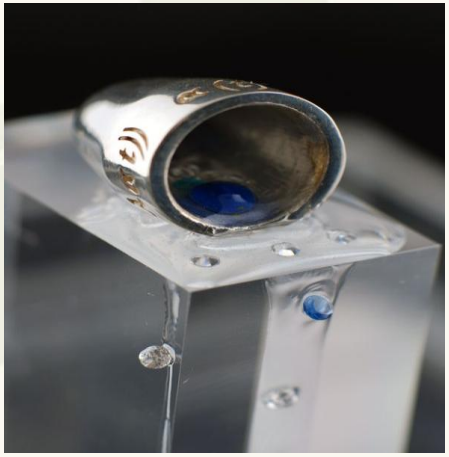
Past And Present Collide

I awoke one night to see a cage,
There was a boy inside the cage.
I asked the boy, 'Why the cage?'
He said, 'It's safe.'
The boy seemed familiar
So I looked closer.
The boy was shaking and crying,
I asked the boy, 'Why the tears?'
He said, 'They hurt.'
I asked, 'What hurt?'
'The schools,' he said.
The cage just disappeared as if it was never there.
I hugged the boy and in a gentle voice I said,
'You're me, aren't you?'
The boy replied, 'You took your time to realise.'

Creative Thinking...

A Thimble Full





Creative Thinking...

Importance of Creativity:

In education creativity is essential...

- **For pupils / students!**
  - communication
  - a means of expression
  - keeping students motivated to learn

- **For teachers!**
  - Getting the most out of their students and offering experiential educational experiences that are meaningful and motivating.
  - Offering a person-centred approach to education.

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Creative Thinking...

CREATE!

Art For Autism

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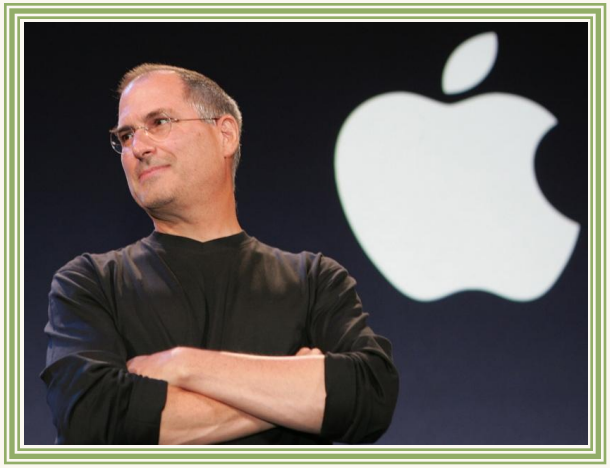
Creative Thinking...

"You cannot mandate productivity, you must provide the tools to let people become their best".

Steve Jobs (Apple, CEO)



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Creative Thinking...

"Creativity is as important as literacy".

Ken Robinson

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