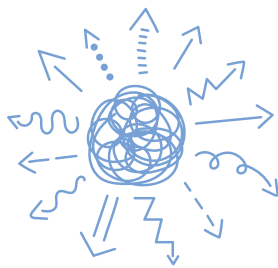
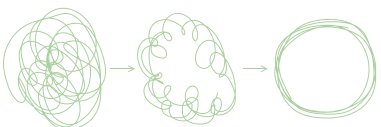


Introducing the Home Knots!

We are delighted to introduce the HomeKnots, an initiative that aims at engaging children and their families in thinking about philosophical questions using our ThinkTanglers cards. The idea is to send one question a week to all the families in your class to discuss at home. Weekends might work best. Children take notes of what they and their families were thinking, things they agreed and didn't agree about. You can then discuss the ideas in your classroom. We hope that this approach will help you build a bridge between your great work at school and children's lives outside the school, embedding reflective thinking deeper in your communities, while encouraging critical, creative, and reflective thinking also at home. We hope that it will help children, their parents, carers, and siblings bond deeper too (hence the HomeKnots - homework that ties families together!) by having some meaningful and fun conversations together. Remember to emphasise the voluntary nature of this homework and be sensitive to each family's situation. The child doesn't need to discuss questions with everyone at home, but at least with one other family member. From our experience, we know that those questions can brighten the Sunday family dinner or the family walk.

Our free downloadable package (pdf) includes:

- Copy of these instructions for teachers
- A sample letter to parents
- Template for sending a chosen question home
- Page with the cards Yes, No, Maybe for parents
- Template with a sample question



Instructions for teachers:

1. Choose one card from the set and place in the indicated box on the template page. Use the main question on the front. Make a copy for each child in your classroom.
2. When sending the question for the first time attach the letter to parents together with the template and the copy of 3 supporting cards – Yes, No, Maybe.
3. Ask the children to take short notes from their conversation and write them down on the template page and bring them back the next day.
4. Discuss the answers together in the classroom. If you want, you can use the additional questions from the back of the chosen card and investigate them further in your classroom.

If you want to save on printing (and help the environment), you could send the question to parents via your school's app or simply ask children to write down the question in their workbooks and ask them to write the answers there too. With a set of over 50 cards, you have enough to run this initiative every week for two whole school years, embedding reflective thinking in your pupils' lives and the communities they are part of!

If you haven't purchased the cards yet you can do this by following this [LINK HERE](#). We hope you'll enjoy working with ThinkTanglers.

We would also appreciate your feedback and any ideas you might have on how to use our resources. Contact us at contact@creativetogether.ie

If you're posting something on social media, please tag us on Facebook or Instagram using [@creativetogether.ie](#) or on Twitter using [@CreativeTogie](#) and use the hashtag [#ThinkTanglers](#).



Home Knots



We would like to invite you to discuss and untangle the attached question at home with your child. We hope that when done regularly i.e. once a week, it will strengthen your relationship, bring interesting conversations into your home and you'll get to know each other even better, whilst supporting your child's creative and critical thinking as well as their questioning skills. All these are skills necessary in today's rapidly changing world.

Simply take turns in trying to answer the question in the following format:

I think... because... What do you think about it?

Please use the attached worksheet to write down your child's answers, arguments, and things you've agreed and disagreed about.

We are attaching a copy of the Yes, No, and Maybe cards that contain additional questions to take you further in your conversations. We hope you'll enjoy the ThinkTanglers.



"We're all accustomed to supporting kids' interests and helping them discover new ones. We expose them to art, literature, and music. We encourage them to try sports. We cook with them. We dance with them. We teach them about science and take them to nature. But there's one task lots of parents neglect, because they don't see it as a separate task: supporting their kids as thinkers."

*Nasty, Short, and Brutish. Adventures in philosophy with kids.
Scott Herschovitz*



Yes



No



Unsure

maybe yes / maybe no



WHY?

Why did you say no?

What are your reasons?

Can you tell me more?

Can you think of some examples?

Can you think of some counter-examples?



WHY?

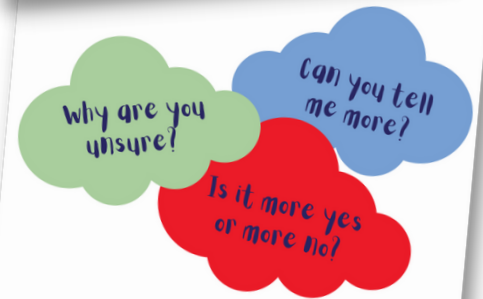
Why did you say no?

What are your reasons?

Can you tell me more?

Can you think of some examples?

Can you think of some counter-examples?



Why are you unsure?

Can you tell me more?

Is it more yes or more no?



Why do you think yes?

Why do you think no?

Place the card with
the question here
and copy the page



what my family thought about it:

Things we agreed about:

Things we didn't agree about:



I think ...

because....





Is whistling music?

sound

what my family thought about it:

Things we agreed about:

Things we didn't agree about:



I think ...

because....

