

COLLAGE LIFE STORY ELICITATION TECHNIQUE (CLET): CREATING SPACE FOR CHILDREN'S VOICES

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CLET **STEPS**

1. COLLAGE MAKING

Encourage individual's agency

Create your own life story collage, use 8-10 images, while trying to answer the question:

"How does this picture/image/drawing represent something important and memorable about [theme] in my life?"

(Use local magazines to stimulate associations)

2. STORY TELLING

Actively constructing micro-narratives stimulated by the images on the collage

- 1. Tell a (short) story about the image in the collage.
- 2. Why did you choose this image to represent [theme]?
- 3. How does this picture make you feel about <a>[theme]? (Prompt for deeper meanings)

Narrative identity; identity is constructed by

3. POSITIONING THE SELF & **ELICITING SILENT VOICES**

Challenging ownerships of the narrative and autobiographical remembering

- 1. Where would you put a picture of yourself in this collage & how would it make you feel?
- 2. What image would you like to add if you could find the right one? Why?

(Prompt further for meanings)

Positioning theory; people use all types of discourse to ascribe their rights, take ownership of relationships to self, other & context, and perform agentively within social & historical constraints.

4. JUXTAPOSITION

Reflect dynamic of the story by comparing similarities and differences among images

Select 2 images with similar meanings, and 1 image with an opposing meaning. What are the differences and similarities between these images? (Repeat if time permits)

Cognitive theory; life is constructed through repertoires for social evaluation, that are built up giving rise to richer personal narratives.

Collage theme: High Mobility Lifestyle

Fireworks vs. Astronaut: my life is full of

at the food: "I love Chinese noodles"

Positioning of Self:

excitement and adventure

Juxtaposition:

5. REFLECTION & CLOSURE

Allow reflection and debriefing

- 1. How did you feel when making this collage and telling your stories?
- 2. What do you feel now that we are almost done?
- 3. Can you think of anything else you would like to add that you did not tell before?

Reflexivity for exploring changes as a result of intervention & insights gained. Debriefing allows for addressing challenges emerging from the whole CLET process.

THEORY

SAMPLE

COLLAGE

STORIES

Creative energy in art-based activity can explore underlying emotional, cognitive & developmental conditions.

A place called home (Female, 8 years old, TCK)

My mother like

Camping in

grandma's

My father

made pancake

on Sunday (9)

backyard (6)

massages (7)

We

watched

TV (4)

My first

(10)

triathlon

X from Canada (1)

My first

biké, my

taught

me to

bike (3)

dad

Many Lotus

flower (2)

Lots of

I like

Lasagna

Picnics (5)

integrating life experiences into an internalized, evolving story of the self that provides a sense of unity, meaning, and purpose in life.

Context

Collage: My Family

Image 1: My father had to waste money to repair the car and we could not go to restaurant for "Yumcha" with my grandmother and aunt for a whole week as well.

Lunch box, Barbeque

Caretaking His mother seldom cooks Nurturing since she does not have eats takeaway. He thinks that the barbeque pork

Story Grid

Image Denotation Metaphor Participant's memory

pork & rice Obesity? time. Thus, he always

represents his sister, who is fat and fierce. He also thinks there is

Margot, female, aged 18, Bi-racial, moves: 9, languages: 4,,

Collage Theme: High **Mobility Lifestyle**

Silent Voice:

study overseas

Picture of Pyramids, her home for the first 5 years of her life.

Positioning of Self:

Spectator. All the stories for her was the past, she looked forward for the new page, the next collage...

Sample of excerpts for Step 5

Female age 10 from Witbank:

"I feel happy because I like it. I have learned something."

Male age 12 from Macau:

"I picked the picture without many thoughts at the beginning, but it turned out that I can talk many things about the pictures. It can make me call back the things of family; it can make me remember the thing that happens when I was small. Because it makes me think back my past."

Female age 15, expat child:

"No one has ever asked me how I feel about my upbringing. I can feel my cheek gets hot and my heartbeat arises as I tell you about my childhood."

DEVELOP-MENTAL **ANALYSIS**

ANALYSIS

Cutting & pasting images: Motor & coordination skills, storying self.

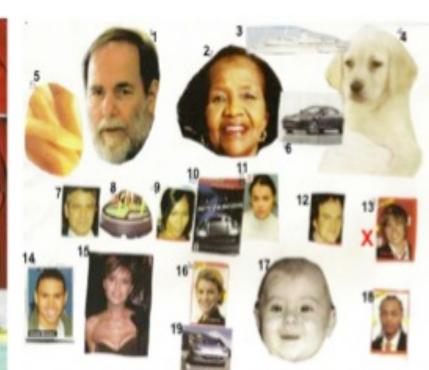
- Number of human & non human images gives hint to quantity and quality of social interaction & relationship patterns.
- Short information, such as "I like it", or "I don't know" may indicate language skill and proficiency.
- The story telling ideally should be conducted in the mother tongue of the child.

from one topic to another with no coherence?

Does the story have a plot, is sequential, or jumps

- Also explore "how" of stories
- Besides the "why" (reasoning), pay attention to "when" and "what" of stories.
- Brief responses or story may indicate avoidance or denial as a way to protect the self.
- Rapport building & prompting is the key to deep and rich stories.





Collage Theme: My Family Children aged 9 -11 from South Africa.

Female age 11:

"I like my sister because she likes helping people when they are in trouble she helps them. I don't like her when she does something bad, when she steals, I don't like it, but I can forgive her ... yah ... when she steals, and lies to people, stuff like that."

COGNITIVE **ANALYSIS**

PSYCHO-

LOGICAL

Age-appropriate cognitive processing.

- Structure & coherence of memories related to theme.
- Repetitive or avoidant/denial of possible problematic.
- Further psychological intervention may be needed if: using irregular images (e.g., vulgar scene, violence, no human image **ANALYSIS** at all), or less than 3 images.