

Workshop – Children First ‘Connect’

Facilitators for the second session of workshop held on **6th July 2017** organised by **Children First** were **Ankita Khanna** and **Swarnima**. Their enthusiasm and warm smile always help us to connect with them immediately. Both of them were well prepared for this session with their colourful stationary, objects etc and their powerpoint presentation already displayed on the screen. On the other hand we St. Marians were also on time for our workshop after a long break and equally excited for this second session with Children First.

We knew that our focus of this session would be our second case study, but we were not taken to that discussion immediately. There was a well planned ice-breaking activity called – **Speed Dating** to bring us back to school and connect effectively with our workplace and colleagues. We quickly realised how important are these ice-breaking activities to establish connect not only with our students but with their parents as well.

(Speed Dating – A fun way to interact with people around us randomly and make the most of our time with them by getting into meaningful conversation for a limited period of time. Change of partner after every 2 minutes was followed)



Ankita then started with the case study and narratives were displayed on the screen. We mutually agreed upon maintaining confidentiality by not disclosing the name of the child.

Once we were through with our understanding of the child's profile, various strategies were discussed so as to connect with this child and alike in a better way.

One of the strategy that was discussed in great lengths was **Shenpa and Shenlok** i.e. How do we get hooked and how we get unhooked? <https://www.lionsroar.com/how-we-get-hooked-shenpa-and-how-we-get-unhooked/> . So, understanding the shenpas of our life, accepting them and finding out the way to shenlok(unhook) them can make it a lot easier for us to connect with our students.



We then moved to another discussion with Swarnima on **SHAME & DISGRACE**. Important point that was discussed here was whether a child should be talked about within the faculty members in the staffroom? If yes, How and in Which way?All of us agreed that the way we talk to our children become their inner voices and we must concentrate on building richer stories.

One of the most powerful tool to enhance our relationship is through **RECOGNITION**. Three forms of recognitions were discussed, Active Recognition, Experiential recognition and Pro-active recognition.

Active Recognition – Simply describing in details what we see in the child doing at any given moment or merely by acknowledging through gestures.

Experiential Recognition – Similar to active recognition but in this we may offer verbal recognition of an action.

Pro-active Recognition – When we recognise special achievements of the child and mention it to him or her.

Towards the end of the session, we were asked to close our eyes and think deeply about one line that summarises all our thoughts/learning from the day. To add little fun and to bring it to effective closure, passing the ball was played and the one with the ball was supposed to pick one word from their sentences.

Words like *Try, Will, connect, shenpa, empathy, love, shenlok* gave the perfect end to this enriching session.

