

Weaving Practice into Research



Save the Children



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Action Research as a Professional Development tool in Domestic Violence Refuges



- Save the Children Australia: Refuge Research Project
- Action Research for Professional Development
- Reflective Practice - Circles of Change Revisited
- Three action research projects
 - PROJECT 1: Case File Analysis
 - PROJECT 2: The Experience of Coming to Refuge
 - PROJECT 3: Children's Play in Save the Children Refuges
- Findings

The Value of Evaluation



- Gareema and Jebb Refuges
- Action Research and Professional Development

“Action research is a hands on way of building research competency. It involves being participants as well as an observer.”

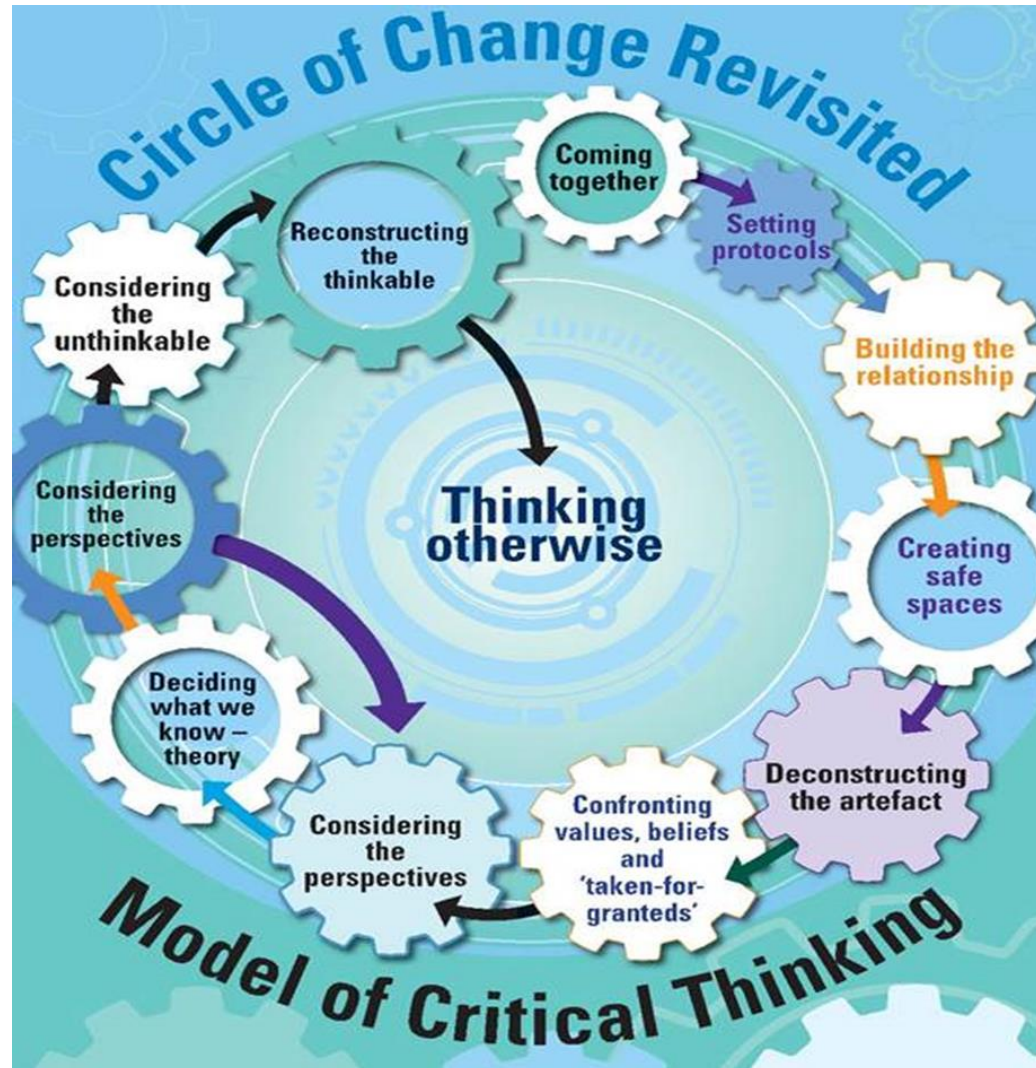


What is Action Research?

- Research in action rather than research about action
- A collaborative democratic partnership
- A sequence of events and an approach to problem solving



Circle of Change Revisited



(Macfarlane, Cartmel, Casley & Smith, 2014)

Action Research Process



Topics	Content
Undertaking Action Research	Process and Responsibilities
COCR Model	Introduction and Application within Action Research
COCR Model Deconstruct and Confront	Devising Topics
COCR Model Theorise and Thinking Otherwise	Topic Application
Action Research	
Sharing Action Research	Power Point Presentations from each group

Action Research Projects

1. Case File Analysis
2. The Experience of Coming to Refuge
3. Children's Play
SCA Refuges



Action Research Project 1 – Case File Analysis



Q:

What is it about our practice that leads to positive outcomes?

Significance:

Staff sought to improve service delivery, reflect on practice and be accountable

Methodology:

- case files were examined
- relevant data extracted
- common themes were identified.

Findings: Positive outcomes were correlated with increased knowledge, connection and support



Action Research Project Two – The Experience of Coming to Refuge



Q:

What was client's experience and impression of Gareema & Jebb refuges in the first two days?

Significance: A client's experience in the first couple of days impacts the likelihood that they will engage in the program successfully.

Methodology: 10 question survey provided to current and past clients

Findings: Clients had a range of emotional responses, but cited their interactions with staff as supportive and welcoming. Suggestions included better/more resourcing of the program.



Action Research Project Three – Children's Play in Save the Children Refuges



Q:

How are children currently using the children's spaces in the refuge?

Methodology:

Recording how children used play spaces using tally sheets



Significance: play is important for children and we wanted to know more about how children were playing in refuge

Findings: we learned that outdoor spaces were used most and that the majority of sessions included the CSW

Findings



Action Research and use of the COCR:

- encourage critically reflective practice,
- encourage transdisciplinary dialogue,
- negotiation of multiple perspectives and
- building knowledge and skills for deepening understandings.

It also has the potential for building capacity within staff teams enhance competencies and organizational practice



References

Cartmel, J., Macfarlane, K., & Casley, M. (2012). *Reflection as a tool for quality: Working with the national quality standard*. Deakin West, A.C.T: Early Childhood Australia.

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