**Community of enquiry continued**

**The discussion**

The child or group whose question has been chosen is usually asked first for their thoughts on it. Other children are encouraged to join in the discussion.

Some examples of open-ended questions for facilitators are suggested by Professor Robert Fisher in his book *Teaching Thinking*:

1. **Questions that seek clarification:**
   - Can you explain that...?  
   - What do you mean by...?  
   - Can you give me an example of...?  
   - How does that help...?  
   - Does anyone have a question to ask...?  
   
   **Explaining**  
   **Defining**  
   **Giving examples**  
   **Supporting**  
   **Enquiring**

2. **Questions that probe reasons and evidence:**
   - Why do you think that...?  
   - How do you know that...?  
   - What are your reasons...?  
   - Do you have evidence...?  
   - Can you give me an example/counter-example...?  
   
   **Forming an argument**  
   **Assumptions**  
   **Reasons**  
   **Evidence**  
   **Counter examples**

3. **Questions that explore alternative views**
   - Can you put it another way...?  
   - Is there another point of view...?  
   - What if someone else were to suggest that...?  
   - What would someone who disagreed with you say...?  
   - What is the difference between those views/ideas...?  
   
   **Re-stating a view**  
   **Speculation**  
   **Alternative views**  
   **Counter arguments**  
   **Distinctions**

4. **Questions that test implications and consequences**
   - What follows from what you say...?  
   - Does it agree with what you said earlier...?  
   - What would be the consequence of that...?  
   - Is there a general rule for that...?  
   - How could you test to see if it were true...?  
   
   **Implications**  
   **Consistency**  
   **Consequences**  
   **Generalising rules**  
   **Testing for truth**

5. **Questions about the question/discussion**
   - Do you have a question about that...?  
   - What kind of question is it...?  
   - How does what was said/the question help us...?  
   - Where have we got to/who can summarise so far...?  
   - Are we any closer to answering the question/problem...?  
   
   **Questioning**  
   **Analysing**  
   **Connecting**  
   **Summarising**  
   **Coming to conclusions**

**Debriefing**

Ask the children for a final statement in relation to the question. Talk about what went well, what other issues were raised, what was fun and what was annoying. Some facilitators chose to challenge factual errors or misconceptions later, outside of the community of enquiry session.

A community of enquiry will be different each time you run it. We have therefore provided an example of a case study on the next page to show you how one has been run.