

# Gifted programs planned using De Bono's 6 Action Shoes as a planning tool



Jo Freitag 2009

## DE BONO'S SIX ACTION SHOES

**Navy formal shoes** These represent routines and formal procedures.



**Grey sneakers** These represent exploration, investigation and gathering evidence.



**Brown brogues** These represent practicality and pragmatism and doing what is sensible and practical



**Orange gumboots** These represent emergency action where safety is a prime concern



**Pink Slippers** These represent care, compassion, and attention to human feelings and sensitivities.



**Purple riding boots** These represent leadership and command and suggest playing out the role given by virtue of a position of authority





## **PLANNING**

**Navy formal shoes**

**Routines and formal procedures.**



## **PROGRAMS**

### **Full time dedicated gifted programs**

Fast paced, accelerated, above grade level courses for highly motivated, high achieving students.

Stringent selection eligibility criteria

Nomination would usually be by the teacher

No flexibility in regards to moving into and out of the course





## **PLANNING**

**Navy formal shoes**

**Routines and formal procedures**



## **PROGRAMS**

Part time, withdrawal programs and select entry residential programs for gifted students

Fast paced, accelerated, above grade level for highly motivated high achievers

Selection for programs would be by eligibility according to strict guidelines and nomination would usually be by the teacher.





## **PLANNING**

**Grey sneakers**

**Investigation, exploration, gathering evidence**



## **PROGRAMS**

Contract learning, project work, passion based projects, incursions and excursions, communities of inquiry, philosophy and metacognition programs, investigation of learning styles and brain research.

Requirements to join and ability to leave the programs would be very flexible.

Possible for students to self nominate for a place in the program





## **PLANNING**

### **Brown brogues**

**Sensible, practical, pragmatic**



## **PROGRAMS**

The programs formed by brown brogue action planning would be choosing the most suitable option for the individual student which could be participation in full time programs or could be subject acceleration, extension, participation in withdrawal or holiday programs etc.

The key would be tailoring the course to the individual student's needs and doing 'whatever it takes'





## **PLANNING**

**Orange gumboots**

**Emergency action**



## **PROGRAMS**

The programs formed by orange gumboot action planning would be probably be a panic reaction and stop gap measures and as with most emergency situations the solutions would vary and unfold according to the situation.

Some of the solutions could be incorporated into future programs but some would be specific to the situation.

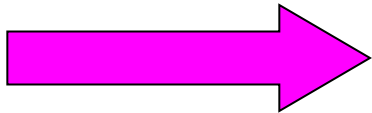




## **PLANNING**

**Pink slippers**

**Care, comfort, compassion**



## **PROGRAMS**

The programs formed by pink slipper action planning would be programs that focused on social / emotional needs, pastoral and spiritual care and coping strategies.

They could also be service clubs, environmental concern groups and fundraising programs.







## **PLANNING**

**Purple riding boots**

**Leadership, command, authority**



## **PROGRAMS**

The programs formed by purple riding boot action planning would be Leadership skills programs, Mentoring, Biographical studies such as Night of the Notables. They could also be creativity and artistically based programs.





**Bare Feet** Allowing the freedom and comfort of not wearing any shoes would be synonymous with not planning any action and just letting nature take its course. And it is possible that all will eventually be right. As our dear old family doctor observed to my father on one occasion, “Ah Mac, I see that I have cured you with masterly inactivity!” But the question will always remain. Would the healing have been faster or more complete if treatment had been given? In the case of 2E students many will go through school perceived as being average students and gaining reasonable results. Some of them will blossom after leaving school when they have the freedom to work in the way that suits them best. But the question will remain. What could they have accomplished if their disabilities had been remediated and their giftedness had been recognized and nurtured?





**Painted Toenails** on bare feet or coupled with showy sandals or thongs would represent giving the appearance of having a program to cater for giftedness and/or learning disorders in place possibly at great extra expense although it is in fact window dressing and the program is lacking in validity or substance.

