



Visual Inquiry

Visual Inquiry involves the use of generic images as a way to open up conversation. Research has shown that the sharing generated through the use of images can be more detailed than occurs when only verbal means are used. The use of the Visual Inquiry method can help to build connection between people, as they share in real and meaningful ways, while staying safe and only sharing what they feel comfortable with. Other benefits to using this method are that the images can evoke ideas, thoughts and feelings that the person participating was previously unaware of themselves. Therefore, the learning generated can be new both for the person picking the image and those who are listening to what they share.

A set of images can be purchased on the link below:

<https://shop.uws.ac.uk/product-catalogue/schools/school-of-health-and-life-science-hls/my-home-life-visual-inquiry-cards>

Purpose

Visual Inquiry can be used in the following ways:

To invite people **to share how they are feeling about something that is happening**

For example: Select an image which helps you share how you are feeling about visiting the care home

To explore a concept

For example: Choose an image about what feeling part of decisions might mean to you/looks like to you?

To envision/imagine how you would like things to be

For example: Select an image which says something about how you would like valuing of your contribution at work to look and feel?

How

- Decide on what 'stem question' you will pose to those you are having the conversation with- see above for examples of stem questions
- Show the images to the participant/s.
- Pose the question, and invite participant/s to select an image in response to the question.
Emphasise that as the person is sharing from their own perspective there can be no wrong answer.

Visual Inquiry Guidance

- As facilitator, you also pick an image and go first in sharing why you picked that image.
- Invite participant/s to share why they picked the image they selected.
- If the conversation involves more than one person, invite each person in turn to share about their image.
- Once everyone has had an opportunity to share about their image, check-in with people how they found the process of using the images

Where and When

Visual Inquiry Images can be pre-planned or can be a resource which can be drawn on in the moment if both people feel it would be helpful to the conversation.

Examples of where the images can be used include:

- During meetings with residents/families/staff
- To inquire about people's experiences
- To gather information (perspectives) to then inform project plans/ policies/ guidance documents
- Staff supervisions