



FAHED - Families And Higher Education Decision-making

HOPES AND CONCERNS ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION

This activity has been used in a variety of ways with families as part of the Lancashire Intergenerational Multicultural Education Project (LIME) and the Families and Higher Education Decision-making Project (FAHED). During this activity, parents often discover that they are not alone in their hopes and concerns about their child accessing Higher Education. This often results in parents feeling more confident and open to ask questions within a parent workshop. This activity is good to use with a new group of parents as it allows a facilitator to ascertain the level of understanding and to discover the questions parents have about Higher Education to then tailor the rest of the workshop or course to meet the parents' needs. Pages two-six of this instruction sheet provide illustrations of symbols that can be used with families who have poor literacy skills or struggle with spoken English.

METHOD	TARGET GROUP	ADAPTATIONS	ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES
<p>Divide parents into small groups to discuss hopes and concerns or questions they have about Higher Education.</p> <p>Ask parents to write each hope, concern and question onto a separate 'post-it' note. These can be collected and stuck onto a board, grouping similar hopes, concerns and questions together.</p>	<p>Suitable for: All ages and backgrounds.</p>	<p>Low level English communication skills:</p> <p>If you are working with a full group of parents for whom English is not a first language, use the diagrams/symbols of different aspects of HE illustrated on pages 2-6 of this Family Activity Sheet 6. Parents can then use a number or smiley face scale to indicate how much of a concern it is to them.</p> <p>If you are working with a mixed ability group of parents, ask a confident parent in English literacy or facilitator to scribe for the rest of the parents in each group.</p>	<p>Advantages:</p> <p>If you have a mixed group of parents and young people, the different age groups can be separated into their own small groups to differentiate between the needs of parents and young people.</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>Depending on the group of parents this can bring about different emotions whilst discussing their children's needs. You need to allow plenty of time for group discussions with additional time to answer parents' questions.</p>



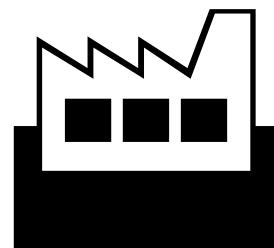
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Adaptations for families with low level English communication skills

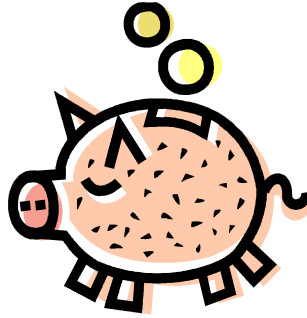
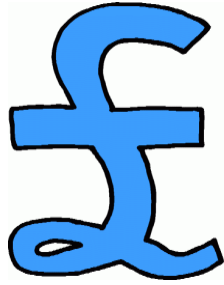
The following HE symbols can be printed off and used with parents during the small group exercise: *'Hopes and Concerns about Higher Education'*. These symbols were developed as an alternative for parents who would struggle with communicating their concerns in written or spoken English. Instead of writing down what their main concerns are, parents can write a number between 1 and 10 onto a post-it note and place it by the different HE symbols. The number will indicate how much of a concern it is to them. Number 1 being of low importance / concern, 10 being of greatest importance / concern. The main concerns can then be identified and discussed as part of a whole group.

List of signs and symbols

- Accommodation: Home or Away
- Cost of Higher Education
- Access to a variety of food
- Religious facilities
- Social facilities
- Study facilities
- Transport to University



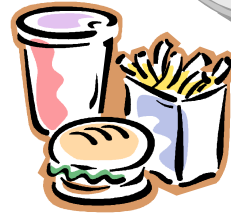
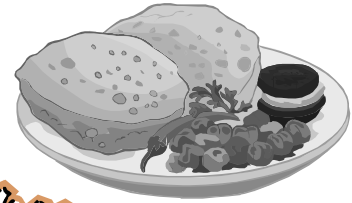
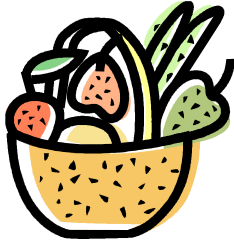
**Accommodation: at home or
at university?**



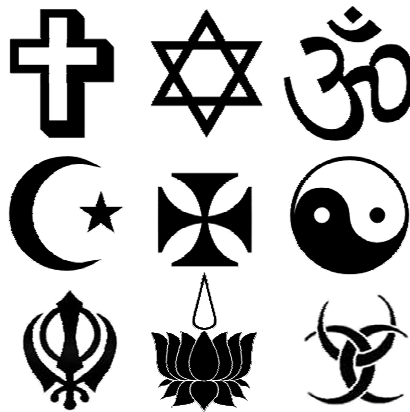
Cost of Higher Education



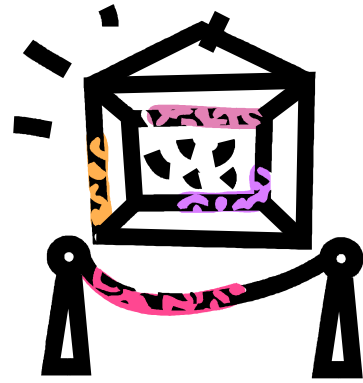
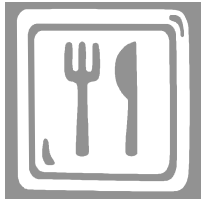
Sports Facilities



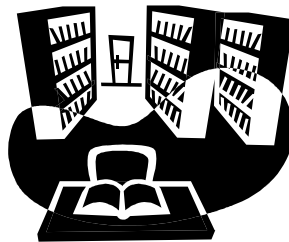
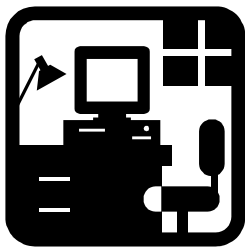
Access to a variety of food



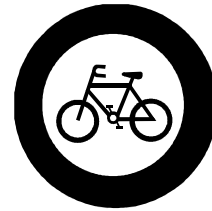
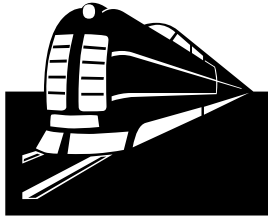
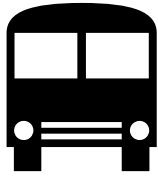
Religious facilities



Social facilities



Study facilities



Transport to University

Academic Support