

1 in 5 Child Poverty Conference: Tackling Stigma and Inequality

Friday 27th April

'Flipping the thinking' JFK-style



"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

John F. Kennedy Inauguration speech, 20 January 1961

A teacher once asked me, "how do I teach those children (living in poverty) to value their education?" and I asked her, "what do you do to show those children you value them so that they want to take up your offer of an education?" Instead of expecting stressed children to understand the long-term value of education how do we flip the thinking so that educators understand and value all children in their classroom irrespective...?

- **Question 1 - what do you do to show those children you value them so that they want to take up your offer of an education (or other service)?**

Work is being done in schools (and elsewhere) to reduce and eliminate poverty-related stigma and shame. I think of this as the cessation of a negative behaviour; in other words, it's a neutral act. How do we flip this to turn it into the presence of a positive; in other words, a positive act? Rather than reduce or eliminate stigma, how do we actively promote dignity and respect for those who manage to come to school each day despite the barriers that poverty puts in their way?

- **Question 2 - How *can you* promote dignity and respect for those who manage to come to school each day despite the barriers that poverty puts in their way?**

- **Question 1 - what do you do to show those children you value them so that they want to take up your offer of an education (or other service)?**

- **Question 2 - How *can you* promote dignity and respect for those who manage to come to school each day despite the barriers that poverty puts in their way?**