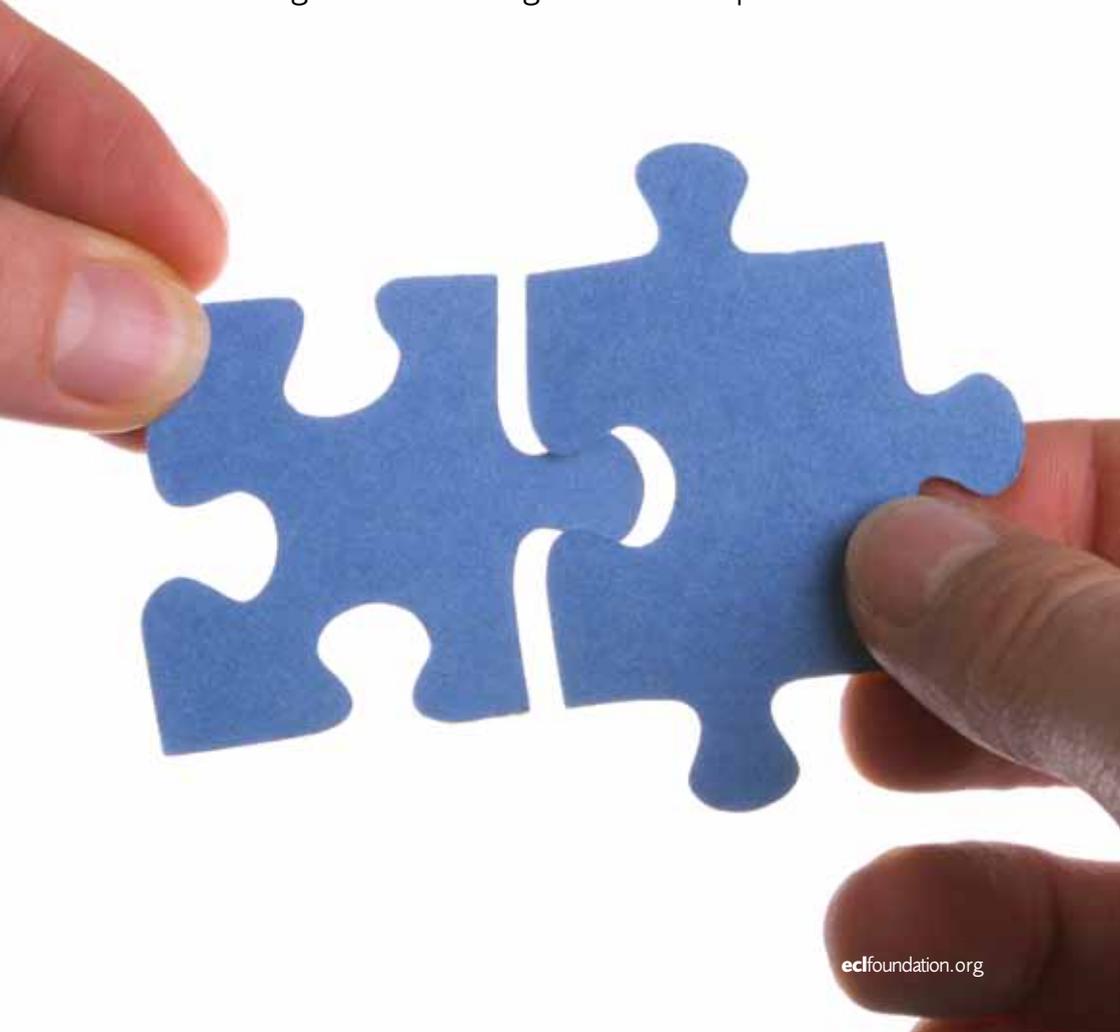




Take2

A common-sense way of holding difficult conversations and resolving conflicts to strengthen relationships



Sharing perceptions- unlocking entanglements

Conflict is an inescapable part of human life but handling it is no simple matter. We often leave issues unresolved because we haven't the confidence, skill or understanding to face into them. Take2 is a simple restorative approach to mediation in schools that helps both adults and young people get a clearer sense of what is at the heart of the difficulty-stripped of emotion and inference. The way is then clear to create strategies together.



Students at Ralph Allen School, Bath, UK, engaged in Take2 mediation sessions



'The quality of the pupil-teacher relationship lies at the heart of children's experience of schooling and as such is of key importance to both educational achievement and to each individual's sense of worth'

Shucksmith et al:2005

Respectfully speaking the truth – The mediator's story

Ms Anderson and Jim meet together in my office for the Take2 mediation session. They aren't fully sure of what will happen but are open to the process.

Ms Anderson begins by bravely stating how she felt when Jim reacted so badly in their last lesson, telling him how she felt frustrated and annoyed by his behaviour. She just wanted to teach the class she told him. She felt that things had been gradually getting worse between them over the previous few weeks. He sits and listens, shuffles in his seat and looks at the floor. There is a long pause and Jim looks at Ms Anderson and replies with: 'I'm sorry Miss... but I hate your subject and I'm never going to like it.' Jim looks nervous about what reaction he will trigger. Then there is an acknowledgment from the teacher: 'I didn't realise you felt this way, it never occurs to me that anyone might feel like this about my subject.'

Jim replies: 'I've tried but I really don't like it and every time I come to your class I'm already dreading the hour, it can't pass quickly enough for me.' 'I now understand why you have been behaving the way you have. What can we do to get through another 6 months until you choose your options.'

There is a visible relaxation in both faces and a release in tension in the room. Together Jim and his teacher start to negotiate different ways they could use to get around the problems, working on the 'give and take' in the situation. They make a simple plan for how they can get through this time.

The outcome? Ms Anderson is much more understanding of Jim's emotions when he arrives at her class; they share the acknowledgement that we cannot like everything and that this is okay. Jim has learnt that by being honest with his teacher about how he feels he has been able to work with her on a plan to help him manage in this class.

Names changed to protect anonymity.
Christine Charles March 2010

Take2 Training and Methodology

Take2 is a simple five step restorative process developed by practitioners in schools. It can be used successfully for mediating between adults and young people but also amongst groups of young people.

A crucial aspect of the Take2 approach is that the mediator holds a space in a non-judgemental and solution focused way. This allows all of the information fact-as well as feelings-about a situation to be heard and acknowledged. From this sound platform creative solutions can be co-developed by all parties involved.

The aim of our training courses is to develop the skills, knowledge and personal qualities of a small group of adults working in the school. The courses enable them to establish, maintain and improve the quality of contact and communication between people experiencing conflict disagreements and disputes.

Training can be tailored to suit your exact needs, circumstances and budgets through a blend of taught and groupwork sessions, augmented by specific web-based resources. Once trained, mediators can be further supported as they use the process.

To learn more about Take**2** email us at
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To learn more about **ecf**'s work
visit www.ecffoundation.org

