

FRAMING IDEAS FOR Impactful Partnership

Diverse impacts

Small things with big effects

Mind-expanding

Intimate outsiders

Evolving art

Revision

Working at the frontier means not being tied to what is known, familiar, routine, or pre-specified. It is one way in which impactful partnership is an evolving art, and it contributes to mind-expanding qualities of partnership as a joint learning process. Frontier work has to be done consciously and with families' best interests in mind.

For more information on the key concepts and findings relating to this worksheet see: [creating-better-futures.org/](https://www.creating-better-futures.org/)

To claim a certificate on completed worksheets see: <https://www.creating-better-futures.org/claim-your-certificate/>

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1. Key concepts – check your understanding

In your own words, explain what each of the ways of working at the frontier means, and make connections to the framing ideas for impactful partnership where you can:

Encountering difference:

Innovating and improvising:

Creating and responding to opportunities:

Being just ahead of policy or procedure:

2. Linking ideas to practice

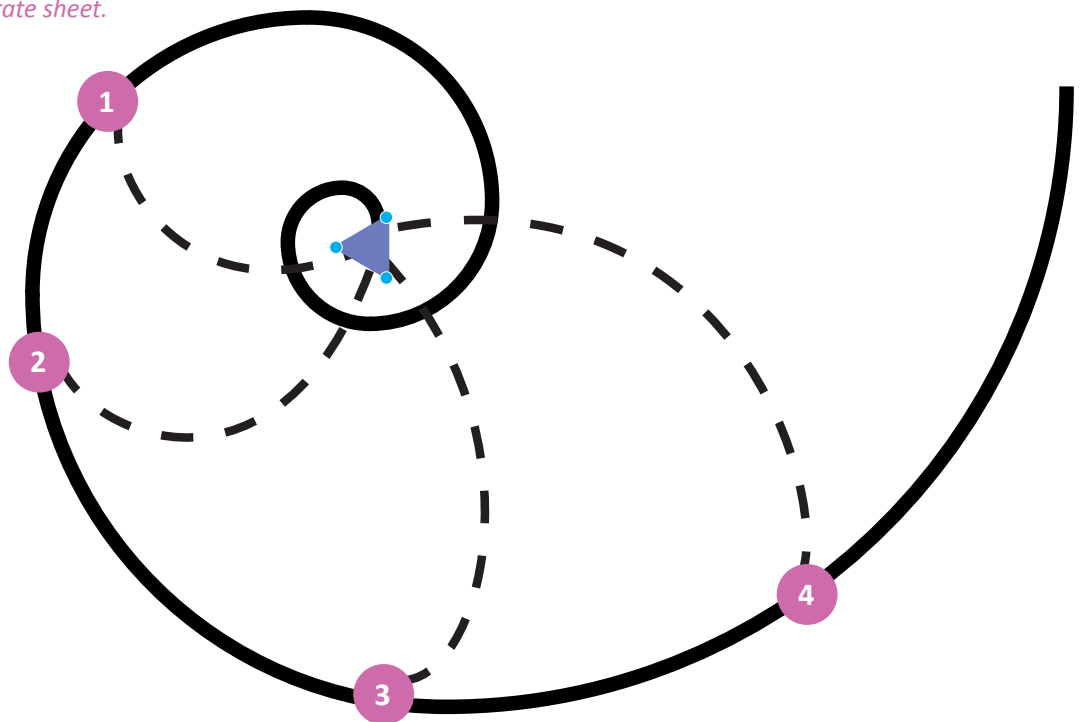
Now you have the concepts in mind, the next step is to connect them to your practice:

Concept	How it relates to my practice
Encountering difference	
Innovating and improvising	
Creating and responding to opportunities	
Being just ahead of policy or procedure	

3. Understanding the diagram

The spiral represents partnership-building as an expansive, evolving process. At the centre is the essence of partnership – help, challenge and possibility (see Essential ingredients of partnership). The outward movement of the spiral links to the idea of partnership as mind-expanding (see Living partnership practices). The spiral loops round, showing that the helper and parent never visit the same issue twice from the same position in relation to a frontier.

If this diagram doesn't make sense to you, draw something that captures working at the frontier in impactful partnership is built on a separate sheet.



4. Working with the diagram

Think of a family you have worked with recently and map the issues you addressed with dots along the spiral to represent the occasions you saw yourself working at the frontier in partnership. Explain how each dot connects back to the essence.

5. Enhancing your practice

On a separate sheet:

1. Choose two of the *Questions for reflective practice* (see right) and write your answer on a separate piece of paper. If they don't quite work you can adapt them.
2. Look at the *Questions to adapt and ask with parents* (see right). Think of a family you are working with or have recently finished working with. Choose two questions you think you could use or adapt to ask the parents, and explain why these might be important, and what you think they might say in response.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

- What has been unusual about working with this family?
- What have I done that went with the flow, going ahead of standard procedure, innovating or improvising?
- What were the most valuable opportunities that I responded to?
- What ideas or workarounds from the past could be useful to me with this family?
- What turned out to be valuable opportunities or openings in working on similar problems with other families?
- What would take my work with this family further into frontier territory?
- How can I make sure my work isn't constrained by what I'm familiar with or what feels comfortable to me?
- If I could wave a magic wand to do something really special with this family, what would it be?

QUESTIONS TO ADAPT AND ASK WITH PARENTS

- Has anything unusual or different been happening?
- How on track are we in terms of spending our time and energy on the things that matter to you?
- Have there been any things going on recently that you'd like us to work on?
- Tell me something good that has happened in your family since last time we spoke
- What have been the most beneficial things we've done together?
- What do you think it was that made those things work so well?
- How close to the edge of your comfort zone have we been?
- If we could throw away the rule book for how we work together, what would you want us to try doing?