The Detective

Fluid Reasoning

About The Detective:

The Detective is your brain's problem-solver. They look for clues, sport patterns and work things out – even when no one has told them the rules! The Detective helps you figure out what might happen next, or why something happened. They can find ways to fix a problem, even when there's no clear answer. They're great at noticing when a new problem is a bit like something you've seen or done before, and using that to help you solve this problem. The Detective helps you "think outside the box" - finding clever answers that other people might not see.

When your Detective can't find their clues

If your Detective needs some help, you might:

- Find it hard to figure out new things if no one tells you exactly what to do
- Miss what people mean when they don't say it straight – like if someone says, "It's cold in here" and they really want you to close the window
- Feel unsure in new places unless someone explains what to do – like which bus to take, where to change or how to follow signs
- Struggle to spot patterns in numbers, pictures or shapes
- Find "what if" questions or "what happens next" questions tricky. Like "what would happen if there were no rules at school?" or "what might happen next in the story?"
- Need lots of examples before something starts making sense

What you can do to help your Detective

- Talk it out: Say your ideas out loud to yourself or someone else to help you think
- Ask detective questions: What is the problem? What do I know? What could I try? Who could help?
- Try and spot patterns: What's the same? What's different? What might come next?
- Draw it: Draw or write the problem so you can see it more clearly
- Ask for examples: If you're not sure, say "can you show me?"
- Take your time: It's okay to go slowly. Some detectives need a bit longer to find the clues
- Be kind to yourself: It's okay not to get it right away. Real detectives need time and clues.
- Try, check, tweek: If it's safe, try your idea even if you're not sure. Then check it and change it if you need to.

Make sure the person is ready to learn these strategies. Remember, not every strategy works for everyone. When unsure, focus on what **you** can do to support the person

What other people can do to help your Detective

Model and Scaffold

- Give worked examples to show what to do before expecting the person to try it on their own
- Show how you solve these problems. Speak your thinking out loud. Ask to see if they follow your thinking before moving to the next step. Don't assume they see how you moved between those steps.
- Talk though the child's thinking with them. This helps them explain how they are approaching it
- Ask guiding questions like "what's the problem?", "what do you already know?", "What do you notice?" "what might the first step be?" "What's the first thing we can try?"
- Avoid jumping in with the answer – give thinking time and prompts instead
- Highlight how problems might be similar to ones they have seen before.
- Give the person lots of similar problems. This lets them practice making short leaps, using what they've just done to help them with the next problem
- Try to teach and model resilience. Detectives get things wrong. So it may help the person to know this is ok. Support them to keep trying, rather than give up from fear or embarrassment.

Support and praise

- Make sure people know **how** they ask for help. Remember – <u>this might not be with words</u>
- Be patient, give more time, and be willing to give more examples and you'd expect.
- Take the pressure off. Detectives don't work well when they are running out of time or have lots of people looking at them
- Praise effort, not just getting it right. Reinforce that puzzles take time and practice.

Use tools

- Use "thinking scaffolds" like flow charts, decision trees, checklists, etc to help guide reasoning
- Use visual aids (e.g diagrams, concrete materials) to help them picture the problem
- When needed for daily living (rather than academic knowledge or skill), teach how to use AI tools safely. This includes how to check their output for accuracy. Some AI tools such as https://goblin.tools use AI, but for specific jobs. For example, Goblin Tools 'Magic ToDo' helps break tasks down into smaller steps

Be clear

- Keep language clear and concrete – abstract language can overload the Detective
- Don't rely on the person inferring what you mean: say what you mean

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