

SCAMPER =

SUBSTITUTE

COMBINE

ADJUST, ADD

MAGNIFY, MINIFY, MODIFY

PUT TO OTHER USES

ELIMINATE, ELABORATE

REVERSE, REARRANGE

SCAMPER TECHNIQUES

...FOR PROCESSING IDEAS AND IMAGES

- S** Substitute Is anything like something else? What similarities do you see? Who or what might be substituted? Who might take the place of? What might be used instead?
- C** Combine What might be combined? Might something or someone be brought together or united with another?
- A** Adjust What needs to be lined up? What is out of tune? What might you adjust
Add to serve a purpose or condition?
- M** Magnify What might be enlarged, or made greater?
Minify What might be minimized made smaller, less frequent?
Modify What might be altered to change the form or quality?
- P** Put to What might be used for a purpose other than originally intended. In what
other uses different ways might it be used.
- E** Eliminate What might be removed, left out, or done away with? What might be
Elaborate detailed, enhanced, made fancier, brighter, more elegant?
- R** Reverse What might be turned around, turned over, or placed opposite? How might
Rearrange you change the order of things, or rearrange the layout plan or scheme?

An adaptation of the checklist found in *Scamper, Games for Imagination Development*, D.K. Publishers.

SCAMPER: A Creative Thinking Checklist

Another way to enhance your creativity is by using a checklist called SCAMPER.

SCAMPER is an acronym for a series of thinking processes. It was developed by Bob Eberle, a well-known author of activity books for gifted kids. He based his idea on an earlier checklist from a book by Alex Osborn called *Applied Imagination: Principles and Procedures of Creative Problem Solving*. (See how one idea can lead to another?)

When you use the SCAMPER checklist, you start off with a particular object in mind and think about ways to change it. Here's what the acronym stands for:

- S Substitute:** What could be used instead?
- C Combine:** What could be added?
- A Adapt:** How can it be adjusted to suit a condition or purpose?
- M Modify:** How can the color, shape, or form be changed?
 - Magnify:** How can it be made larger, stronger, or thicker?
 - Minify:** How can it be made smaller, lighter, or shorter?
- P Put to other uses:** What else can it be used for?
- E Eliminate:** What can be removed or taken away from it?
- R Reverse:** How can it be turned around or placed opposite its original position?
 - Rearrange:** How can the pattern, sequence, or layout be changed?