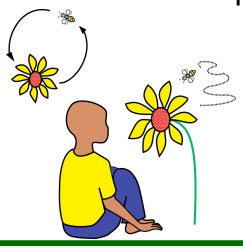
Habits of a Systems Thinker

Seeks to understand the big picture

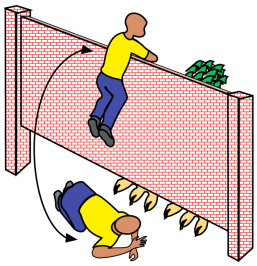
Observes how elements within systems change over time, generating patterns and trends

Recognizes that a system's structure generates its behavior

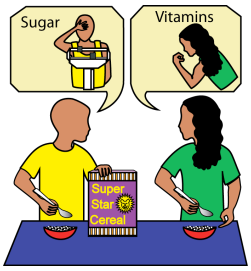
Identifies the circular nature of complex cause and effect relationships



Changes perspectives to increase understanding

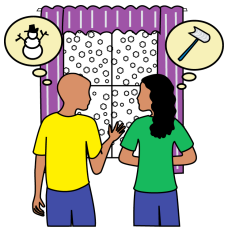


Surfaces and tests assumptions



Considers an issue fully and resists the urge to come to a quick conclusion

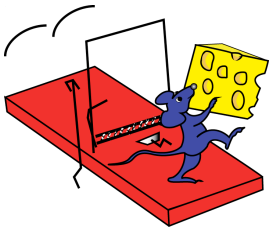
Considers how mental models affect current reality and the future



Uses understanding of system structure to identify possible leverage actions

Considers both short and long-term consequences of actions

Finds where unintended consequences emerge



Recognizes the impact of time delays when exploring cause and effect relationships

Checks results and changes actions if needed: "successive approximation"

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