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SIX STEPS TO EMERGENT KNOWLEDGE

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What is Emergent Knowledge?

Grove's revolutionary discovery and development of Clean Language and Therapeutic Metaphor enabled therapists to help victims of trauma reconnect to their true selves while avoiding retraumatization. Throughout this work he continued to ask himself: "Where do victims go when they dissociate at the time of the trauma?" The answer, he realized, was into a symbolic space inside or outside of themselves, a discovery which took him into an exploration of what became known as 'Clean Space' and the 'small world networks' of information formed from the knowledge held in a number of spaces. The next key element to enter the equation was the principle of iteration. In the context of a therapeutic intervention, iteration is the repetition of a question the answer to which incorporates the knowledge gained as a result of the preceding question. It is a systemic process. When enough nodes of information integrate – and the number, Grove discovered, was almost always six – a threshold is crossed and new knowledge emerges naturally from the system. The therapist or coach is neither the instigator nor the interpreter, but the facilitator - the catalyst - of systemic emergence. Scientists, technologists, economists and psychologists are finding a huge variety of uses for systemic emergence. In this article we introduce a basic application in the area of therapy, self-discovery and coaching. The article is in three parts:

- PRINCIPLES OF EMERGENT KNOWLEDGE
- BASIC PROCESSES OF EMERGENT KNOWLEDGE
- RUNNING AN EMERGENT KNOWLEDGE SESSION

(Note that information relating to PRINCIPLES, PROCESSES and the graphics shown in Figure 9 below are detailed fully in the full article.)

RUNNING AN EMERGENT KNOWLEDGE SESSION

Starting

Invite the client to create their 'Mission Statement'. What would they like to work on? Invite them then to place the statement. And then to place themselves in relation to it (see under 'Principles').

Applying a Formula

The basic processes can be applied in several formulaic ways. Here is one of them: 'The Six Steps' (see Figure 9):

1. Run a Clean Start
2. Over-Drive A (with Upload)
3. Download A
4. Meta-Drive A
5. Run parts 2, 3 and 4 five more times
6. Download A



Figure 9

This particular formula over-drives, downloads and meta-drives 'A'. The same formula can be applied to 'B', although not within the same iteration. We recommend keeping each iteration as simple as possible, enabling the client to add their own complexity.

Ending

At the end of the session it is useful for the client to take a meta-position to the whole system. The facilitator asks: "Knowing what you know now, what do you notice about the difference between your initial statement and your last statement?" Finally having the client complete an 'Action Plan' (see 'Basic Processes') – or giving it as homework – concludes the session.

And What Else?

'Six B Starts' is an Emergent formula in which the client creates six versions of their issue. It is available as a download from www.powersofsix.com/articles.php and www.uniquechange.com/training.html. Case studies of Power of Six processes in use with clients will be the subject of another article. Philip's version of David's work will shortly be available in a book 'The Joy of Six'.