**Professional Experience - 7 key suggestions to develop your resourcefulness**

Resourcefulness is the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome challenges, find solutions, and identify alternatives by using the resources at your disposal. It's a brilliant attribute to have in life generally, but it's also something employers look for in their employees because it's vital for the key skill of adaptability.

Consider the next 7 key suggestions to develop your resourcefulness:

**1. Be optimistic**
Have a positive outlook, you'll see challenging situations as opportunities, not threats and you demonstrate positive confidence in your ability to figure it out. This will stimulate motivation and energy to explore new strategies and to be resourceful.

**2. Be tenacious**
Keep going, stay focused and be determined. Resourcefulness contains the seeds of believing that quitting is not a solution to challenges; answers will always be found.

**3. Be resilient**
Behind anyone who has ever succeeded in doing anything, is a trail of failed attempts and rejected ideas. If you're going to keep trying, despite failing, you'll need to be resilient enough to bounce back from things and refuse to admit defeat.

**4. Keep an open mind**
Resourcefulness requires the opposite of ingrained thinking. In other words, be open to new ideas and thoughts that differ from your own. In a classroom environment this means that you will demonstrate an open mind towards your supervising teachers’ classroom management and teaching strategies as well as parents’ views, beliefs, values and concerns. Don’t discount something just because you had previous unpleasant experiences or because it doesn’t line up with your personal beliefs.

**5. Adapt and improvise**
If you can't use teaching strategies or resources you feel familiar with for its intended purpose, can you use it in an adapted approach? Can you adapt what you’ve done on a different project (classroom, cohort, subject, year level) to help you with your current placement cohort?

**6. Be divergent/different**
Don't restrict your thinking before you start. Be creative and imaginative, think big and out-of-the-box. Once you have a list of ideas, however wacky, and you can't think of any more, then narrow them down to the best ones.

**7. Ask for help**
Being resourceful requires you to be honest about your limitations, As a teacher education student you can't be expected to know it all. Ask colleagues, your PELO or supervising teacher for advice or even just to be a sounding board often yields surprising and productive results.

Resourcefulness is an attribute you develop by shifting your mindset, your attitude and self-esteem.  Knowing that the keys to success is within your reach, it influences, improves and builds your self-confidence and enhances your professional career.