

Inspiration 7.0 – Getting Started

Diagram toolbar

Symbol palette

Formatting toolbar

The screenshot displays the Inspiration 7.0 software interface. At the top, the menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Text, Symbol, Link, Effect, Tools, Utility, Window, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with icons for Outline, RapidFire, Create, Link, Arrange, Note, Hyperlink, and Spell. On the left side, there is a 'Basic' symbol palette containing various shapes and icons. At the bottom, there is a formatting toolbar with options for font face (Arial), size (12), bold, italic, underline, text color, background color, and alignment. The main workspace contains a mind map centered on 'Innovation Learning'. The mind map branches into four main areas: 'Engaging Learners through Resources', 'Taking Ideas Forward', 'Building Classroom Climate', and 'Tools for Learning'. Each of these areas has several sub-nodes with text and images. The 'Engaging Learners through Resources' branch includes nodes for 'Using animation and digital cameras', 'Accessing and Developing eye-catching resources to 'hook' learners', and 'Whiteboard Powerpoint Software'. The 'Taking Ideas Forward' branch includes 'Dissemination - a realistic scale with a workable action plan', 'Being Realistic about further needs', and 'Recognising what we do well'. The 'Building Classroom Climate' branch includes 'Designing Challenging Learning Activities', 'Establishing Quality Standards for Learning', and 'Building Collaborative Learning Community IP3'. The 'Tools for Learning' branch includes 'For planning For review Individual/ Shared', 'Mapping tools including software', and 'Making learning visible and keeping learning "fresh and personal"'. The 'Accelerated Learning' branch includes 'A/L as planning aid', 'Multiple Intelligence', and 'Using ICT to support learning When?'. The software interface also shows a Windows taskbar at the bottom with the Start button, several open applications, and the system clock showing 15:42.

Diagram Toolbar



- When you open Inspiration, a symbol appears in the centre of the screen with the placeholder text *Main Idea* already selected. Type in your own text.
- To add a linked symbol to your main idea use the *Create icon* on the toolbar. Click the upper right point to create a new, linked symbol in that direction etc.
- As an alternative to quickly capture ideas radiating out from the main idea use the *RapidFire* icon. This allows you to concentrate on entering information rather than creating symbols one at a time. First you need to highlight the symbol you want the additional information to be attached to (in this example *main idea*), and then click on the *RapidFire* icon.
- If you want to add an idea to the page but you are not sure where it fits, just point and click with the mouse and type in your idea. A symbol will automatically be created to hold the text.
- When you do decide where something fits, highlight the symbol you want the link to start from, click on *Link* on the toolbar, and finish by clicking on the symbol you want to end with.

Formatting Toolbar



- This helps you to quickly customise the look of symbols. Font type and size is on the left hand side of the toolbar along with Bold, Italic, and Underline.
- Clicking on the **A** icon gives you a palette of colours to choose from for text
- Clicking on the Fill colour buttons next to it gives you a colour palette for background colour and arrow colours

Outline View

When you have created a map using the above it is worth looking at the *Outline View* version compared with *Diagram View*. It can sometimes be easier to make changes to text or add additional topics and subtopics in this view.