

## Interest, Not Patience - Nancy Kline

'You are stunningly patient.' I hear this after almost every Thinking Session demonstration. Other people tell me they often hear the same comment about their Attention as Thinking Partners, too. I guess what we do looks like patience. It is still. It is warm. It doesn't rush. It breathes.

But patience is not what it is. Not remotely. Patience is a kind of waiting, a postponing. It is in reference to the moment when the thing, about which a person is being patient, will stop, and the person can finally act or speak. Patience is a polite dismissing of what is happening or being thought in this moment. It is an invisible drumming of the table. Patience wants the thing to end, but does not fan or act on that wanting. Patience is a cousin of arrogance. It is disengaged.

Attention in a Thinking Environment is not patience.

It is interest.

It is breathless anticipation of what the Thinker will think, and say, next. It wants to know. It wants to hear the Thinker's creations. It stands ready for birth.

Patience is nowhere to be found. It is *interest* people are seeing. And interest does do amazing things.

It creates thinking.