Inferiority and Comparison - Clinician dialogue

Guide a collaborative conversation about inferiority and comparison while checking fit and participant choice.

Mental health professionals | 15 minutes

Fictional example: Morgan compares a new role with a colleague's ten years of experience.

Invite and obtain permission

Offer: "Would it be useful to explore inferiority and comparison using an ordinary or fictional example? We can adapt it, observe, or stop." Ask what the person wants from the conversation.

Elicit before teaching

Ask: "How does this show up, if at all, in your own words?" Offer this idea tentatively: Feeling less capable need not define overall worth. Ask what fits and what does not.

Guide the task

Name a comparison, the standard behind it, and the contextual information it leaves out. Ask for permission before giving an example. Use this fictional illustration if useful: Morgan compares a new role with a colleague's ten years of experience.

Reflect and check accuracy

Reflect only what was offered: "I heard you describe ___. What did I miss?" Ask: What changes when the comparison includes context? Avoid assigning motives or interpreting silence as agreement.

Respond to a mismatch

If the person rejects the frame, say: "Thank you for correcting it. What would be more useful?" Return to their language or choose a different approach.

Close with agency

Ask which observation, question, or support request the person wants to keep. Confirm a manageable ending and appropriate follow-up; do not turn a tentative possibility into a homework obligation.

Reflection

What would tell me to adapt, stop, or seek supervision?

Scope and adaptation

Explore patterns as collaborative hypotheses. Do not infer personality from sibling position, treat recollections as recovered facts, blame people for coping, or frame structural inequality as a lack of effort.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background: Alfred Adler: Theory and Application. Full source links and scope: library.morethantherapy.org/approaches/resources/ADL-A07-3