

Encourage CONCEPTUAL LEARNING & CRITICAL THINKING



Children need the chance to search for big ideas - to generalize, summarize, and draw conclusions so they can make sense of information, analyze, compare, contrast, make inferences, and generate thinking skills.

1 Use categorizing, naming, and sorting activities.

This prepares children for more complex thinking.

2 Provide opportunities for play.

Building with blocks, acting out roles with friends, or playing board games build conceptual and critical thinking.

3 Pause and wait.

Offering children ample time to think, attempt a task, or generate a response gives them a chance to reflect and adjust, rather than responding with their very first gut reaction.

4 Ask open-ended questions.

Encouraging children to think and imagine beyond what they already know helps them hone creative problem-solving skills.

5 Help develop hypotheses.

Taking a moment to form hypotheses during play is an exercise that helps develop critical thinking skills. Try asking, "If we do this, what do you think will happen?"

Is your child meeting their milestones?
Find your free developmental screening center at screenforsuccess.org!

