Skill Five: Critical Thinking

The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs

“A learning relationship with a child is a lifetime in the making.” - Ellen Galinsky

Critical Thinking is the ongoing search for valid and reliable knowledge to guide beliefs, decisions, and actions.

**SUGGESTION:** Observe your children at play and see what they’re attempting to understand. Play is the way that children often try out ideas. We do it, too—but we do it by playing with ideas in our minds rather than acting them out, as children do.

**SUGGESTION:** Help children problem solve using these steps:

1. Identify the dilemma, problem or issue
2. Determine the goal
3. Come up with alternative solutions
4. Consider how these solutions might work
5. Select a solution to try
6. Evaluate the outcome and, if the solution isn’t working, try something else

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