

WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING?



And why is it so important?

Being able to think critically, solve problems, and make good decisions is the key to success in work and in life and fundamental to living in a democratic society.

In order to think critically about any given topic, a person must:

- 💡 gather as many facts as he can about the topic, evaluating the quality of the information as he goes;
- 💡 use a variety of resources: books, magazines, newspapers, technology, and knowledgeable people;
- 💡 attempt to answer any questions arising, using problem-solving techniques;
- 💡 and then form an opinion, make a decision and take action if necessary.

Critical thinking is about having an informed opinion and the confidence to express that opinion without being influenced by fashion or authority while remaining open to future discussion.

Too much information can be an obstacle to critical thinking; in this age of information overload, parents and children are being challenged as never before.

Ways to Develop Critical Thinking in your Children:

- 💡 Establish a home library at the earliest opportunity: books, magazines, newspapers, etc.
- 💡 Don't answer every question for your child; encourage her to go and to learn as much as she can about history, literature, math and science, etc.
- 💡 Establish a nurturing environment where there's a lively exchange of ideas. Play challenging games: twenty questions, word games, board games.
- 💡 Understand your child's thinking process. In order to support your child's learning, it is a good thing to know his learning style.
- 💡 Don't overly criticize. Remember to criticize the idea and not the child and remain open to having your ideas challenged in return.