

Thinking Skills Environment

Rev	Description	Approval	Date
2			033109

Creative Thinking

- Brain storming
- Divergent thinking
- Exploring, generating ideas
- Stimulate curiosity
- Innovation & entrepreneurship

Questions

- Logical Sequential
- Open ended
- Listening is the first step in good questioning
- Provocative
- Engage
- Encourage higher order thinking



Critical Thinking

- Analyzing the past
- What evidence?
- What is the authors purpose?
- Convergent thinking
- Skepticism is a virtue

Learning environment

- Set Values
- Focus on vocabulary
- Make thinking visible
- Don't look to blame
- Incremental learning
- Learning from mistakes
- Learning is collaborative
- Excitement/enthusiasm leads to fun & play
- Wait 30 sec before answering
- Let students know how to succeed (rubrics)

Meta-cognitive reflection

- What do I want to understand?
- What have I learned?
- What do I still need to learn?
- Provide feedback for reflection
- Regulate ones behavior

Create your thinking strategies:

- Look to make your approach more efficient.
- Look at issues from a system view with inputs, outputs, processes and feedback.
- Think of strategies in "gathering, organizing, analyzing and making conclusions.
- Break problems into small chunks and study them well.
- Begin with the things that are simplest to understand and move to the more complex.
- Never to accept anything as true that you do not clearly know.
- Be complete in both your work and reviews that nothing is omitted.

Descartes, Discourse on Methods

Creating an environment that fosters and values thinking

When we honor kids' thinking, they learn that their thinking matters. Students and teachers feel free to take risks as learners when they know their thoughts, ideas and opinions will be treated respectfully by others. The room arrangement mirrors the focus on learning and thinking with meeting spaces for small groups, a comfortable spot where the large group can gather, and desks or tables in clusters to promote conversation and collaborative work.

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