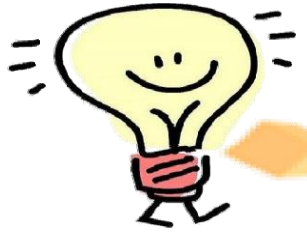




Make choices & Decisions, *and* Solve Problems

By
**Rajeshwari
Super Kids**



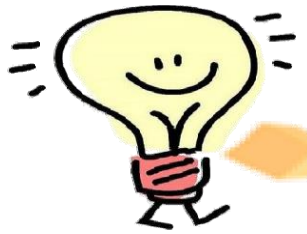
Think!

Think out of the box

As parents we want our children to grow up and be able to:

1. Think
2. Make choices & Decisions
3. Solve problems

These skills can be achieved through practice related to daily decisions. Eventually they may have an impact on your child's professional, career, and personal choices.



Think

Think out of the box

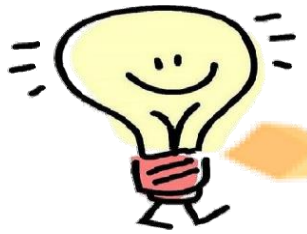


What is Thinking?

“Thinking is the operating skill with which intelligence acts upon experience (for a purpose).”

– Edward De Bono

(World’s leading authority on thinking and inventor of lateral thinking)



Think!

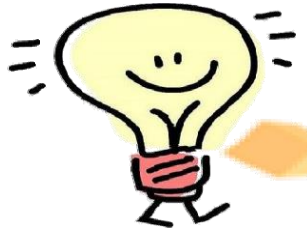
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Thinking and Intelligence

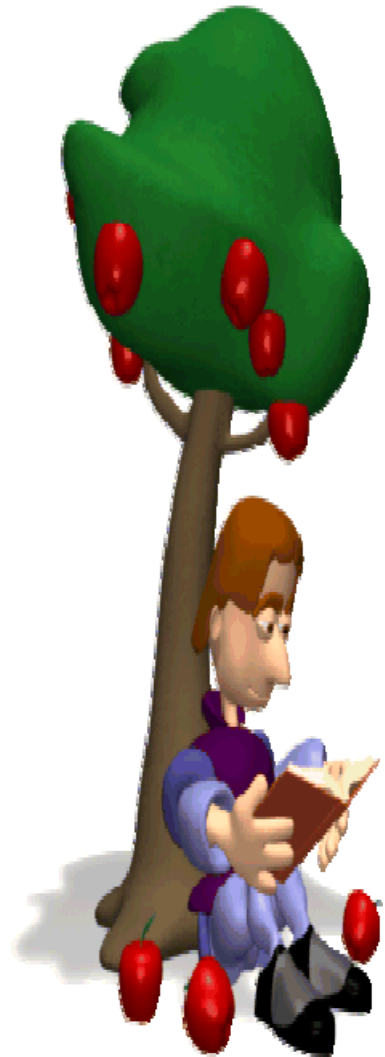
Intelligence and thinking are two different things.

Intelligence is the potential and thinking is the operating skill to make use of the intelligence.



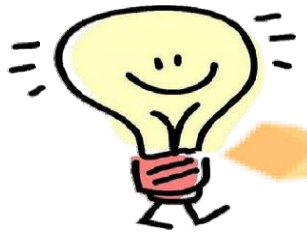
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Thinking and Intelligence

Intelligence is like the horse power of a car. The performance of a car does not entirely depend on the horsepower of the car but upon the skill with which the car is driven by the driver. So if intelligence is the horse power of the car, then “thinking” is the skill with which that horsepower is used.



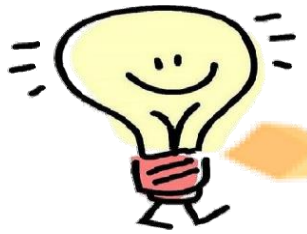
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Thinking is a Skill

Thinking is a skill that can be improved by training, by practice and through learning how to do it better. Thinking is no different from any other skill and we can get better at the skill of thinking if we have the will to do so.



Think!

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Making Decisions

Our children need to learn to be able to make good decisions as soon as possible in their lives. In reality, they do make some decisions beginning at a very early age.



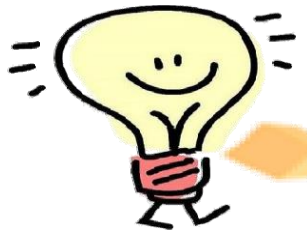
Think

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At what age are children making decisions?

As early as age 6 months, children are deciding if they want to eat or not. By age two, they are deciding what to wear. At age five they may decide to be a doctor or a driver or a policeman. Later they will need to use their skills to make very important life decisions.





Think!

Think out of the box



Making Decisions

It is said we only have 18 years to raise our children. In reality, we only have 18 years to raise adults. As parents, we should give choices beginning at an early age so that our children will create their own choices later in life. Children are actually practicing for adulthood.



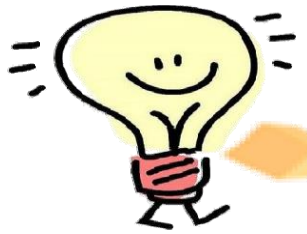
Think

Think out of the box



Making Decisions

At an early age the decisions made by a child are relatively simple. As they grow older, their choices and decisions become more complex. We must allow them time to practice at home, which is a reasonably safe environment. You should teach children to make a decision and give them opportunities to make decisions for themselves.



Think!

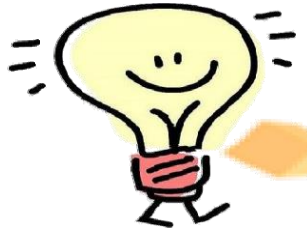
Think out of the box

We should look at developing a wide variety of thinking skills in our children

1. Critical Thinking

- a) Sorting
- b) Ordering
- c) Classifying
- d) Observing
- e) Comparing and Contrasting





Think!

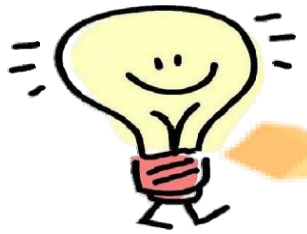
Think out of the box

We should look at developing a wide variety of thinking skills in our children

2. Logical thinking

- a) Generalizing
- b) Patterning
- c) Deductive reasoning





Think!

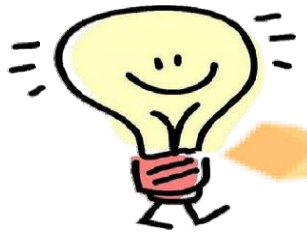
Think out of the box

We should look at developing a wide variety of thinking skills in our children

3. Creative thinking

- a) Divergent thinking
- b) Mental imagery





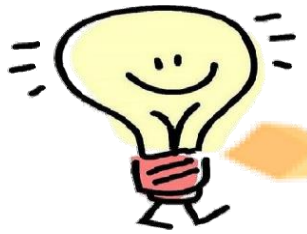
Think!

Think out of the box



What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking is distinguishing between fact and opinion; asking questions; making detailed observations; uncovering assumptions and defining their terms; and making assertions based on sound logic and solid evidence.



Think!

Think out of the box

Activities for Critical Thinking

1. Pulses and Nuts: Give children 6 to 8 different varieties of Nuts or dry fruits or pulses in a box and ask them to separate them and put them in different containers.

Skills developed : Sorting, following directions and classifying.





Think!

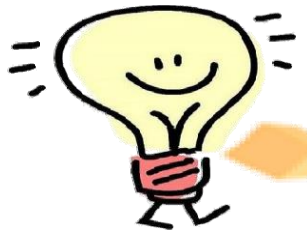
Think out of the box

Activities for Critical Thinking

- 2. Apple – with my the 5 senses:** Cut a apple into pieces and ask the child to tell about the apple using all the 5 senses.
- a) How the apple tastes?
 - b) How the apple looks?
 - c) How the apple feels?
 - d) How the apple smells?
 - e) How the apple sounds (when you eat)?

Skills developed : Observing and following directions .





Think

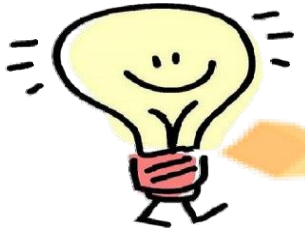
Think out of the box

Activities for Critical Thinking

3. Natural and Artificial Fruits: Place any one artificial fruit or vegetable and the same real fruit or vegetable. Tell the child to observe and tell you the differences between the two.

Skills developed : Observing, Comparing and Contrasting.





Think!

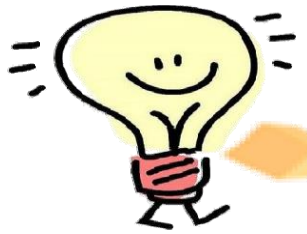
Think out of the box

Activities for Critical Thinking

4. **Sowing a seed and making it a plant:** Give children either a seed to plant and nurture it to make it a plant or give them pictures of seed, a sprouted seed, till the plant comes out and bears the fruit or seed. Children have to keep the pictures in the order of the seed's life cycle.



Skills developed : Ordering.



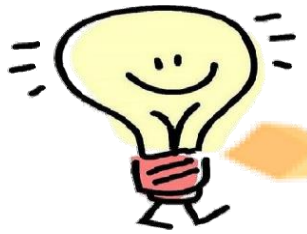
Think

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What is Logical Thinking?

In his book *Brain Building*, Dr. Karl Albrecht says that the basis of all logical thinking is *sequential thought*. This process involves taking the important ideas, facts, and conclusions involved in a problem and arranging them in a chain-like progression that takes on a meaning in and of itself. To think logically is to think in steps.





Think!

Think out of the box

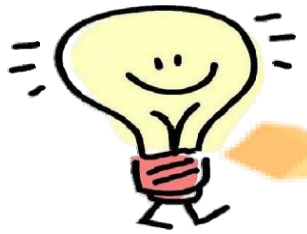
Activities for Logical Thinking



1. One would then ask the child or children: “If you had to add one more color to the above sequence, which color would you choose?” The answer, of course, is green.

Skills developed : Patterning





Think!

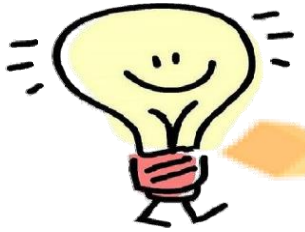
Think out of the box

Activities for Logical Thinking

2. Leaves: Give children a set of different shaped and coloured leaves. Let them look at the leaves carefully and locate one or two common characteristic among them.

Skills developed : Generalizing and Patterning





Think!

Think out of the box

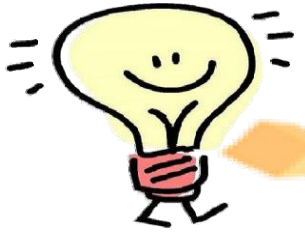
Activities for Logical Thinking



3. Family Member-Association-Activity:

Make a chart with familiar photos of items belonging or used by the Child, Dad and Mom on the X-axis(Horizontal) and Paste the photo of the child, dad and mom on the Y-axis(Vertical). The child should identify the item and to whom it belongs to & put a X in the corresponding box. Parents have to do it with the child for the first few times and then they will do it themselves.

Skills Developed: Deductive Reasoning



Think!

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Family Member-Association-Activity Sheet:





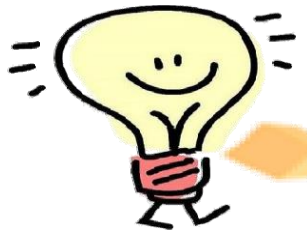
Think!

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What is Creative Thinking?

Creative thinking is the process which we use when we come up with a new idea. It is the merging of ideas which have not been merged before. It includes finding different alternatives or solutions to a given problem.



Think!

Think out of the box

Activities for Creative Thinking

1. Thinking of Alternatives:

Children think of different ways to climb up the slide. And think of the best way to bring down a frightened child back down from the slide. They can also be asked to think of different ways to get the apple from the tree.

Skills Developed: Divergent thinking.





Think

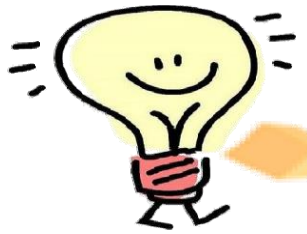
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❖ Think of different ways to get on top of the slide

❖ Think of different ways to get the apple from the tree





Think

Think out of the box

Activities for Creative Thinking

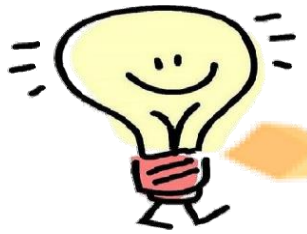
2. A bird's eye view:

Children should be told that they are the bird flying over the playground. They should match a bird's eye view of the playground equipment with the ground level view.

Skills Developed: Mental Imagery.

Puzzles also help in building mental imagery.



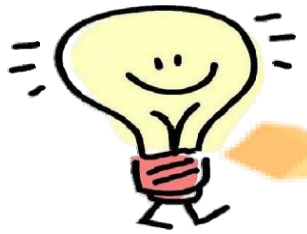


Think!

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Match the bird's-eye view with each piece of equipment





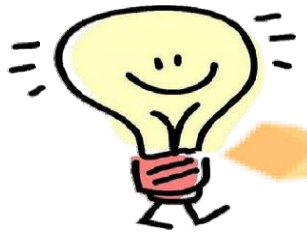
Think

Think out of the box



Teaching Children to Make Decisions

You should teach children to make a decisions and give them opportunities to make decisions for themselves. We will see steps that you should teach children to go through when they make decisions.



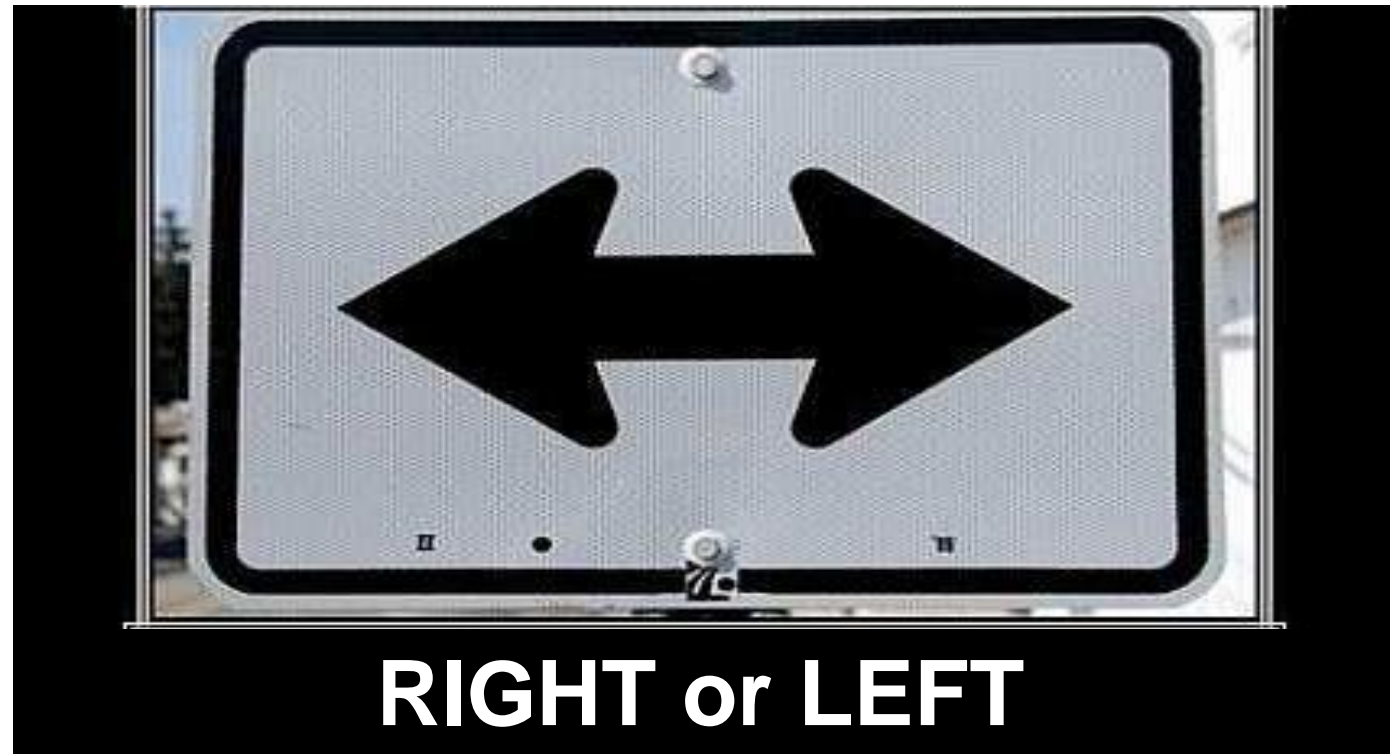
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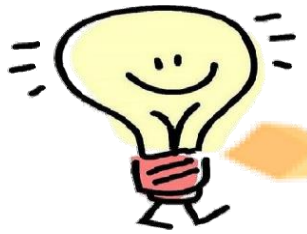
Think out of the box



Steps for Decision Making:

Step 1: Be Aware of the Decision you are Making





Think!

Think out of the box



1. Awareness:

Children need to be aware that they are about to make a decision.

Sometimes kids don't even realize they have made a decision or that there is a decision to be made.

Make sure you point out that there is a decision and that they are on step one of making a decision.



Think!

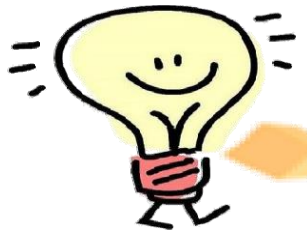
Think out of the box



Steps for Decision Making:

Step 2: Know all the Options When Making a Decision





Think!

Think out of the box



2. Know all Possibilities:

When teaching children to make a decision it is important for them to think about all the possibilities. Some decisions will only have two possibilities while others will have several. You should teach your children to look at every possible option when making a decision.



Think

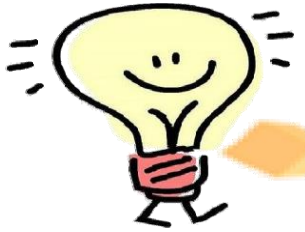
Think out of the box



Steps for Decision Making:

Step 3: Take all the Consequences into Consideration When Making Decisions





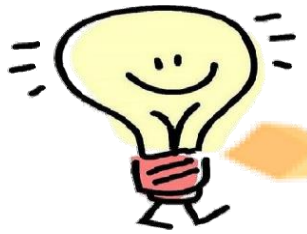
Think!

Think out of the box



3. Consequences:

When teaching children to make decisions it is important for them to take into consideration each of the consequences for every possible option. Your child should think through the complete decision including the consequences. Every decision will have a consequence either good or bad and they all must be taken into consideration when making a decision.



Think!

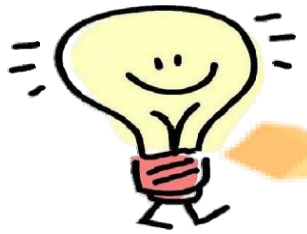
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Steps for Decision Making:

Step 4: Family values should be Considered



Family Values



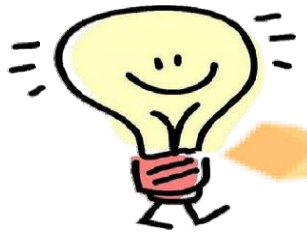
Think!

Think out of the box



4. Consider Values :

You should teach your child to weigh the possibilities and consequences against your families beliefs and values. If there are possible solutions to a decision that is not something your family would normally take part in than that may not be a valid possibility. Any possible decision should focus on the family standards that have been established and those should always be taken into consideration.



Think

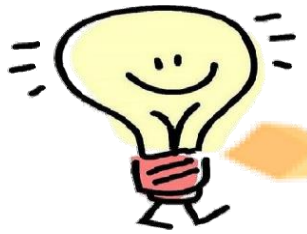
Think out of the box



Steps for Decision Making:

Step 5: Recognize When You are Making a Decision





Think!

Think out of the box



5. Recognize:

While you teach children to make a decision you should also take the time to recognize them when they make a good decision. This is very important so children will know they are on the right track. If your child makes a bad decision you should let the consequences play out and then discuss the consequences and what they could have done differently.

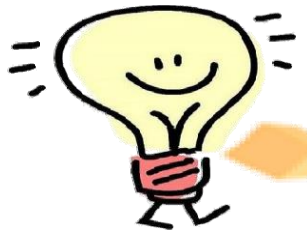


Think!

Think out of the box



If your children ask you a question...put the question back to them saying, “What do you think?” Don’t always give answers immediately. Give them an opportunity to think and then you can help them out with your answers.



Think!

Think out of the box



You should refrain from solving your child's problems and help your child to think, make choices and decisions, and solve problems.

*Give a child a fish and he eats for a day,
Teach him to fish and eats for life...*



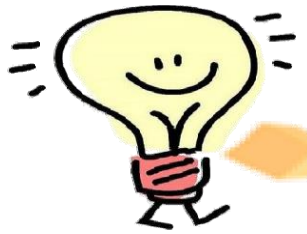
Think

Think out of the box



Remember, every time you do something for your child that he could do for himself, you limit him in the long run. We must allow children the chance to truly learn from their mistakes.

So bite your tongue, lock your jaw, and let your children begin early making choices and living the consequences, the earlier the better!



Think
Think out of the box



**Thank You
and
Happy Parenting**