

FROM ABC'S TO CRITICAL THINKING: HELPING STUDENTS GROW BEYOND THE BASICS

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Early childhood is considered the golden age, as this is the start of a child's crucial growth and development. This is the time when our students become more curious of everything and they frequently ask the question "Why?" which is the first sign of thinking critically. Since they are at their elementary level, the foundational skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic are essential in order for them to move to the next stage of development. The various aspects that need to be developed are their cognitive, language, physical-motor, social-emotional, and spiritual and moral.

Students think more complexly and in higher form when they apply their critical thinking. When they have the ability to think critically, especially in early years, they can make the right, careful, and logical decisions in life. As observed, when students are encouraged to think critically, they become more involved in the learning activity, which increases their engagement in the teaching and learning process. It can also develop their analytical skills, which is an important skill for their academic and professional success. It can also foster empathy and understanding since they can now better understand the different views and perspectives of other people. Critical thinking also develops independent thinkers as they think for themselves rather than just receiving information. Being able to identify misinformation is also one of the advantages of critical thinkers. Since there are lots of online sources available nowadays, they must verify this information and avoid being deceived by this content. A critical thinker is also creative and always strives to come up with out of the box solutions to solve the problem.

Although some may find it difficult to promote critical thinking to elementary students, it is necessary to make it a habit to make them ready to solve real-life problems and evaluate the lessons that they've learned in class. We must think of fun and enjoyable activities that can boost our students' critical thinking. It is very helpful because we can develop terrific communicator where there are always logical reasons behind our student's ideas.

References:

<https://graduate.nichols.edu/blog/why-is-critical-thinking-important/#:~:text=What%20is%20critical%20thinking%3F,%2C%20business%2C%20and%20everyday%20life.>

11 Activities That Promote Critical Thinking In The Class - Educationise

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan