



## Promote Critical Thinking Using Explanations and Problem Solving

Have conversations with children that include thought-provoking questions and explanations. Children's ability to use language for thinking and learning is fundamental to the development of literacy and success at school. Here are some fun things to try:

### Play Time

While painting together, ask the child to make a prediction before mixing two paint colours. You could say, "What do you think will happen if I mix some white paint with red paint?" Making predictions helps children make connections between an action and outcome.



### Daily Activities

When things don't go as expected, have a conversation that encourages the child to problem solve. For example, if the table is wobbling, say, "This table is wobbling a lot today. How can we fix it?" Help the child come up with possible solutions and provide an explanation about why it solves the problem.

### On the Go

While helping the child get ready to go outside, offer an explanation about why we put on sunscreen. You could say, "We need sunscreen because it helps protect our skin from the sun. Too much sun can burn our skin and a sunburn hurts!"



### Book Reading

After reading a familiar book, encourage the child to think about what might happen after the story ends. For example, "I'm wondering what the little old woman and man will do now that the fox has eaten their gingerbread man." Wait for the child to respond and talk about why they think the characters will take that action.

### Notes