

Thinking skills

Characteristics Creative Thinking	What we will see and hear	
	Adults	Children
Problem solving Flexible thinking Originality Imagination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging children to give a range of alternative explanations • Asking questions that get children to speculate and reason • Getting children to generate a range of success criteria for solving a problem • Design tasks that promote flexible thinking • Asking for alternative explanations • Designing tasks to promote imagination and innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a range of strategies to solve a problem • Being able to share examples • Generating something unique/ individual • Being imaginative • Brain storming to generate ideas • Explain how they think outside of the box • Suggesting and speculating on 'what might happen if..?'

Characteristics Critical Thinking	What we will see and hear	
	Adults	Children
Questioning Reflecting Reasoning Decision making Judgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching the skills of self-assessment • Supporting children with - What worked well? What was difficult? • Asking children to prove how they know, seeking evidence • Nudging children to make decisions • Commenting on errors and misconceptions in a positive way • Promoting metacognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciding which method or strategy is best to deal with a problem • Evaluating the quality of their work then making the change (editing and Improving) • Deciding what works well for them and what helps them to learn well • Children contesting and debating • Linking ideas to make sense of a concept • Asking a range of questions

Characteristics Caring Thinking	What we will see and hear	
	Adults	Children
Empathy Listening Appreciating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting children to describe their feelings and those of others • Sharing children's work, successes and achievements • Creating a growth mind-set ethos and culture • Supporting colleagues • Emotionally intelligent professional discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing a real interest in the work of their peers • Showing sensitivity to others feelings, when contesting or debating ideas • Being aware of those who may be vulnerable and knowing how to best support them • Appreciating and respecting their peers

Characteristics Collaborative thinking	What we will see and hear	
	Adults	Children
Team work Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging contributions from all children • Using random question answering techniques (names on sticks) • Providing opportunities for team building exercises • Teaching the skills needed for good partnership work and good team work • Giving children opportunities to teach each other • Promoting our learning value of 'relationships' • Engaging in peer mentoring as a CPD opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on each other's ideas, shaping common understandings • Children actively listening to each other and knowing they need to make contributions • Time to work in mixed attainment groups learning from each other • Learning how to mediate and conciliate