



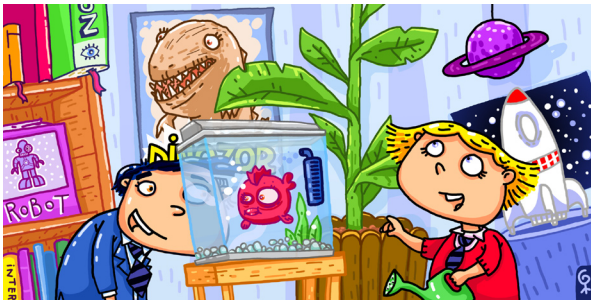
Children's Research Center, Turkey

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"I think, therefore I am"
René Descartes



We are living in the constantly changing information age. Today we need to be able to make sense of information, adapt and be skilled in identifying and solving problems.

Therefore the development of thinking skills is one of the most valuable gifts we can pass on to our children.

Thinking is motivated by questions. The simplest way to develop your child's thinking skills is by asking questions. Questions that stimulate your child's thought process can make learning fun and exciting.

Here are some suggestions that can help developing the thinking skills of children:

Encourage children to ask questions and share their enthusiasm by giving positive responses to their questions. Encouraging responses like "What a nice question!" will help them to think and ask more.

Remember the difference between drill type questions that recall information such as "what", "which" and "where", and thought-provoking questions such as "why" and "what happens if". Instead of asking "What is rain?", try "Why it rains?", "How is rain formed?" or "What would happen if there was no rain?".

Start off asking questions that you know your child can answer, allowing him or her to begin with a feeling of

accomplishment.

Providing the answers for the children's questions right away often stops the thinking process. Guide your children or students towards discovering the answer on their own.

Create the teaching-learning atmosphere that is open to ideas so that your child is willing to take a chance. You want your child to feel free to experiment with new ideas and not be afraid to make a mistake.

Respect your children's opinions and encourage them to have their own ideas. Consider a wrong answer as a learning opportunity. Helping them to find out the correct answer and develop their own ideas will encourage them to learn more.