

Think Right

Meta-thinking

Characteristic	Meaning	Conversation starters to build characteristic
Meta-cognition	Being aware of possible thinking approaches that might be useful in any given context and then knowingly using the one of your choice. Using an idea or skill, learned doing something else, to tackle doing something new.	How could you do this? Have you doing anything similar before? What did you do then? What approach could you use?
Self-regulation	Involves being able to monitor your own progress, evaluate what you are doing and correct yourself when necessary to keep on track. Operating independently to plan, monitor and assess your own learning.	What do you need to be able to do this? How can you check you're on track? How can you tell whether you are doing it right?
Strategy planning	Ability to approach new learning experiences by actively attempting to connect them with something you know how to do already.	How would you plan to do this? Does it remind you of anything similar? If it does, how did you tackle it then?
Intellectual confidence	Ability to explain your personal views clearly, based on evidence you can articulate, and if necessary defend these views to people who disagree.	Get children to come up with an argument supporting something and then opposing the same thing. What do you think? Why do you think that?

Analysing

Characteristic	Meaning	Conversation starters to build characteristic
Critical or logical thinking	Ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason and seek supporting evidence. Looking at information gathered and using it to decide on a solution or response.	Why do you think...we wear seat belts, babies cry, leaves fall in Autumn?
Precision	Ability to work effectively within the rules. Being careless holds learning back.	Are you sure that's right? Have you checked this to make sure it's your best work?
Complex and multi-step problem solving	Ability to break down a task, decide on a suitable approach and then act.	What do you need for school tomorrow? What do we need at the shop? What do we need to take on holiday?



Linking

Characteristic	Meaning	Conversation starters to build characteristic
Generalisation	Ability to see how what is happening in a particular instance could be applied to other situations. Can see if a rule learned already can be applied to a piece of new learning	Remember when... What is similar? What is different? Do you think that could work this time?
Connection finding	Ability to use connections from past experiences to seek possible generalisations.	What does that remind you of? Talk about connections – how a fish is connected to a tree, a table to a boat etc.
Big picture thinking	Ability to work with big ideas.	What would happen if...? Why is the sky blue? Where do snowflakes come from?
Abstraction	Ability to move from a concrete to an abstract thought quickly e.g. from one apple added to another apple makes 2 apples to the idea of one plus one equals two	Tell me every stage you go through to get to... e.g. brushing teeth, getting dressed etc. Encouraging them to think in the abstract; thinking through something in their head.
Imagination	Ability to take prior knowledge and apply it to solving problems while thinking beyond the obvious.	How would you weigh a giraffe/a house/a star?
Seeing alternative perspectives	Ability to take on the views of others and deal with complexity and ambiguity. Awareness that there isn't always a 'right' answer.	Was Goldilocks a good girl? Is stealing to feed a hungry baby wrong?



Creating

Characteristic	Meaning	Conversation starters to build characteristic
Intellectual playfulness	Ability to recognise rules and bend them.	What if you did it differently? How could you do it differently? Play around with things they already know and change them e.g. make up their own version of a game
Flexible thinking	Ability to abandon one idea for a superior one or generate multiple solutions.	How do you know that? What might someone else think? When an idea hasn't work, discuss why and encourage new ideas.
Fluent thinking	Ability to generate lots of ideas, to understand that your best idea might not be your first and to keep on thinking until you're sure you've reached your best idea.	How can you...? What happens when...? Can you think of other ways to do it? What else could you do?
Originality	Ability to conceive something new.	Is there another way? What might be better? What would make it new?
Evolutionary and revolutionary thinking	Ability to create new ideas by building on existing ideas or diverting from them.	I would what would happen if...? What would it look/sound/feel like if you created...?