

Learning at Home: a guide to develop critical thinking

A big focus for teaching is the teaching of 'soft skills'. These are skills that are going to set our children apart from the automated and robotic world that they are growing up in. We are always designing learning experiences that develop our children's creative, cognitive and contextual skills in order to continue the learning that takes place on a daily basis at home. There are 3 key, computer free ways that we can continue to develop this thinking while working with our children at home:

Activity 1: Teach Something

Asking a child to teach a skill that they are good at is a great way of developing communication and articulation skills. It also develops empathy as children need to consider how their audience is feeling and what they are understanding. The skill being taught could be anything; from complex maths calculations to jumping up and down!

Activity 2: Create Something

Allowing children the time and space to be creative is a huge part of our teaching. Have a go at setting an open task and allowing your child to take the process wherever they want. In this time of uncertainty there is an opportunity to discuss how we could create something to

help others, particularly as some members of our community are isolated. The key with this process is to frame the thinking around the thoughts of 'why' and 'what if'.

Activity 3: Learn Something

We all enjoy our teaching jobs because children love to learn. This is a really good opportunity to allow children to learn about new things. The temptation is always to look on the internet as it is such a fantastic resource, but consider teaching children about elements of living and jobs around the house. This helps them to make sense of the immediate world around them and will develop problem solving skills that they will transfer to real life situations.