

Dear Parents,

Critical thinking skills give your child the ability to not only understand what has been read but also to build upon your child's knowledge. Critical thinking skills encourage your child to think for himself/herself. A good critical thinker will explore and consider as many possibilities as he/she can. To help your child to develop these skills, go beyond asking your child "Yes" and "No" questions. Some suggestions might be:

1. Embrace the "WHY". Prompt your child with thought provoking questions.
2. Ask "What happens next?" When you finish reading a story, have your child use his/her imagination to continue the story.
3. Ask "Fact" or "Opinion" questions. Have your child prove the reason for the given answer.

Encourage your child to be an independent worker. Tell your child that you believe the task can be accomplished. Help him/her by breaking the big projects down into smaller pieces. Ask questions concerning the task. Remind your child that effort is very important.

I will be in my room Monday, February 6, 2012, from 6:15 PM until 6:45 PM. (This is PTT/SAT meeting night.) If you have any concerns or suggestions as to how I can better serve you child more productively, please come to see me. I can also be reached by phone during the school day if that is more convenient. My goal is to help your child be successful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Donna Johnson