

# CRITICAL THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING

## Parent Resource

GRADES  
**9-12**

### What is critical thinking and problem solving?

Critical thinking and problem solving means gathering information to think through and determine the best solution.

As your child gets older, he or she will need to continue developing critical thinking and problem solving skills to be successful in school and life. He or she can use these skills to make responsible choices, accomplish goals and maintain positive relationships through effective communication, collaboration and conflict resolution.

In grades nine through twelve, children begin or continue:

- ✓ Demonstrating effective and respectful communication skills and strategies.
- ✓ Refining plans for career paths or areas of study for life after school.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills:

#### ASK YOUR CHILD



Ask your child to share a time when he or she encountered a challenge or a problem at school, work or home. Ask your child, "What are some strategies you have already tried? What other options have you not yet considered? What are the pros and cons associated with those options?"

#### DISCUSS YOUR COMMUNITY



Discuss with your child an issue or problem happening in your community. Ask your child if he or she has an opinion on the topic. Encourage your child to research information to inform his or her opinion. Revisit this conversation later to see if your child has changed his or her opinion.

WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING WILL HELP HIM OR HER TO BECOME CONFIDENT, INDEPENDENT AND SUCCESSFUL.

### SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Applying alternative solutions when solving problems or resolving conflict.



Discussing ways to anticipate, avoid or de-escalate conflicts.



#### ACTIVITY FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Research the electoral process and the importance of being an informed voter with your child. Look for elections that are currently happening in Florida and have your child research the candidates and the issues that the candidates are addressing. Do these solutions consider all relevant factors?



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