

RESOURCEFULNESS:

The cognitive aspects of learning; 'thinking'

The capacities that make up this disposition include:

Reasoning

Calling up your logical and rational skills to work things out methodically and rigorously; constructing good arguments, and spotting the flaws in others'.

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More Ideas

1. Have a go at solving some simple mazes with small groups of children. Finding the way through a maze is a fun approach to helping young children with logical thinking. You could also ask your Y5 or Y6 colleagues to engage their children in planning and designing 3D mazes for the younger children to solve. This would be an excellent open ended design DT project guaranteed to need lots of planning and revising! You might also be lucky enough to find real mazes near enough for a visit with your class.
2. Using your zoo floor mat and animals, the street map and cars or the farm, tell the children a number story. Make up different scenarios as you go along and regularly ask the children a question. Ask them to explain how they worked out the answer. Let them use the objects to help explain their reasoning.
3. LDA produce a lot of resources for language development. Some of them are also very useful for promoting reasoning skills. Try the Goldilocks and What's Wrong? sets of cards.
4. Use the Odd One Out activity from Making Links. Making links is an essential part of logical thinking and reasoning.
5. Sit at the jigsaw table with groups of children and work on the jigsaws together. Model your reasoning out loud to the children explaining what you did first second, third, etc. so that they begin to understand a methodical, step by step approach.
6. All kinds of sorting activities provide the opportunity for children to explain why they are grouping items in a particular way.

And what about ...?

- Rewarding the children with stickers and badges when they explain their thoughts or actions.
- Regularly modelling your reasoning out loud to the children and encouraging the children to explain how and why they have done something.
- Make a large display with the title 'Solving Problems'. Take photographs of the children when they complete a jigsaw, get through a maze, solve a number problem, etc.