



What Can A Parent Do To Promote Thinking?

“Children grow into the intellectual life around them.”

Lev Vygotsky

The skill of **Evaluation** means: Judging using criteria.

Ideas and tips for parents for this skill:

Assist children in learning that evaluating includes establishing criteria, identifying the data for each criterion, comparing the information and drawing a conclusion.

When your child states an opinion, ask him/her for the reasons (evidence) that support the opinion.

Use easy or familiar content until children have internalized the process. Examples are: Which of these five books is the funniest book? Which of these six non-fiction books is the most informative book? Which of these characters is the best role model? Which of these leaders is the most intelligent? Which politician is the most qualified? Which college would best prepare me for my chosen career? What evidence can you cite for your judgment?

Literature that support the application of this skill:

- *Little Tricker the Squirrel Meets Big Double the Bear* (Which character is the most clever?)
- *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (Which character is the most careful? What criteria did you use to make that judgment?)
- *Town Mouse, Country Mouse* (Which mouse has the best home? Cite evidence from the story to support your position.)
- *Non-fiction books on the same topic* (Which resource is the best for me to use in my research? Why?)

Questions a parent can ask his/her child to reinforce this skill:

- What criteria did you use to evaluate the colleges you are considering?
- Which criteria are more important than others?