

# The WONDER CABINET WISDOM

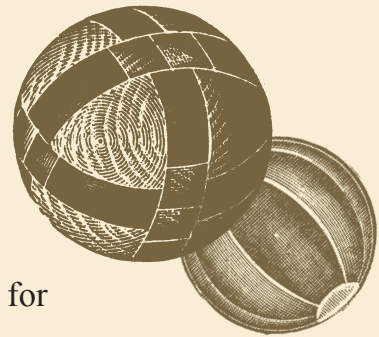
## Critical Thinking - The Magnet Wall

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*Critical thinking begins with a child's curiosity about the world around them. Starting at an early age, children begin to make scientific discoveries by asking questions and exploring ideas through hands-on experiences to construct knowledge.*

### Ways to support your child's critical thinking:

- \* **Ask questions:** Questions such as, "*What did you notice when...?*" or "*Why do you think...?*" help children focus on making observations.
- \* **Make predictions:** Questions like, "*What do you think will happen if...?*" encourages children to come up with theories for why something happens.
- \* **Resist the urge to problem solve for them:** Allowing your child to make their own discoveries and to make mistakes is an important step in their learning to problem-solve.
- \* **Praise your child's efforts, not personality:** Rather than saying, "*You are so clever,*" praise the strategies they are trying as they seek a solution. This will help them learn perseverance and to challenge themselves.



### Why is this important?

Critical thinking is an essential life skill that helps children figure out how to *use* the information they have learned to find solutions to problems. It involves asking questions and conducting experiments to find their own answers.

Adapted from *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs* by Dr. Ellen Galinsky  
[www.mindinthemaking.org](http://www.mindinthemaking.org)

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