



**CRITICAL THINKING – A KEY ASPECT IN PRIMARY  
EDUCATION  
TANQIDIY FIKRLASH – BOSHLANG‘ICH TA‘LIMDAGI ASOSIY  
JIHAT  
КРИТИЧЕСКОЕ МЫШЛЕНИЕ – ГЛАВНЫЙ АСПЕКТ  
НАЧАЛЬНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ**

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**Abstract:** *In the modern world, where information is rapidly disseminated and widely accessible, critical thinking is one of the most essential competencies developed from an early age. Primary education plays a crucial role in fostering this skill, laying the foundation for successful learning and active participation in society. This article discusses the significance of critical thinking, effective methods for its development among primary school students, and its long-term benefits for personal and professional growth.*

**Аннотация:** *В современном мире, где информация распространяется с огромной скоростью, критическое мышление становится одной из ключевых компетенций, формируемых с раннего возраста. Начальное образование играет важную роль в развитии этого навыка, закладывая основу для успешного обучения и жизни в обществе. В данной статье рассматривается значение критического мышления, эффективные методы его развития у*



младших школьников и долгосрочные преимущества для личностного и профессионального роста.

**Annotatsiya:** Zamonaviy dunyoda, ma'lumot tez tarqalib, keng mavjud bo'lgan sharoitda tanqidiy fikrlash erta yoshdan rivojlantiriladigan eng muhim ko'nikmalardan biri hisoblanadi. Boshlang'ich ta'lim ushbu ko'nikmani shakllantirishda muhim rol o'ynaydi va muvaffaqiyatli ta'lim hamda jamiyatda faol ishtirok etish uchun asos yaratadi. Ushbu maqolada tanqidiy fikrlashning ahamiyati, boshlang'ich sinf o'quvchilari orasida uni rivojlantirishning samarali usullari va shaxsiy hamda kasbiy o'sish uchun uzoq muddatli foydalari muhokama qilinadi.

**Keywords:** Critical thinking, Primary education, Problem-based learning, Logical reasoning, Debates, Information analysis, Independent thinking, Decision making

**Ключевые слова:** Критическое мышление, Начальное образование, Проблемное обучение, Логическое мышление, Дебаты, Анализ информации, Независимое мышление, Принятие решений

**Kalit so'zlar:** Tanqidiy fikrlash, Boshlang'ich ta'lim, Muammo asosida o'qitish, Mantiqiy fikrlash, Munozaralar, Ma'lumotlarni tahlil qilish, Mustaqil fikrlash, Qaror qabul qilish

### **Critical Thinking – A Key Aspect in Primary Education**

In the modern world, where information is rapidly disseminated and widely accessible, critical thinking is one of the key competencies that should be developed from an early age. Primary education plays a crucial role in fostering this skill, laying the foundation for successful learning and active participation in society.



**Enhances Problem-Solving Skills:** Critical thinking encourages students to approach problems systematically, breaking them down into smaller components and analyzing potential solutions.

**Promotes Independent Thinking:** Instead of merely memorizing facts, children learn to ask questions, evaluate evidence, and make their own conclusions.

**Encourages Curiosity and Inquiry:** Developing critical thinking skills fosters a natural sense of curiosity, prompting students to seek knowledge beyond what is taught in textbooks.

**Improves Communication Skills:** When students critically assess information, they become better at articulating their thoughts and engaging in meaningful discussions.

**Supports Decision-Making Abilities:** In real-life situations, children with strong critical thinking skills can weigh options and make informed choices rather than relying on impulse.

## Strategies to Develop Critical Thinking in Primary Education

### Encouraging Questioning

Teachers should create an open classroom environment where students feel comfortable asking questions and challenging ideas.

Open-ended questions should be used to stimulate deeper thinking rather than simple “yes” or “no” answers.

### Problem-Based Learning (PBL)



Introducing real-world problems and encouraging students to find solutions fosters critical analysis and decision-making skills.

Group discussions and collaborative projects help students consider different perspectives.

### **Using Socratic Questioning**

Teachers can guide students in analyzing and evaluating their own thoughts through Socratic questioning techniques, such as asking them to justify their answers and consider counterarguments.

### **Integrating Critical Thinking into Everyday Subjects**

Reading comprehension activities can include debates, predictions, and inferential questions.

In mathematics, students should be encouraged to explain their reasoning and explore multiple ways to solve a problem.

Science experiments should include hypothesis testing, analysis, and drawing conclusions based on evidence.

### **Encouraging Reflection**

Self-assessment and reflection activities help students evaluate their learning processes and improve their reasoning skills.

Journaling and peer feedback can also enhance critical thinking development.

### **The Importance of Critical Thinking in Primary Education**

Critical thinking is the ability to analyze information, assess its reliability, and make well-founded conclusions. In school practice, it helps children not only



memorize material but also understand its essence, find connections between phenomena, and form their own judgments. In an era of constant information flow, a child with critical thinking skills can recognize manipulation, avoid stereotypes, and make informed decisions.

### Challenges in Implementing Critical Thinking in Primary Education

**Traditional Teaching Methods:** Many education systems focus on rote learning, which does not promote analytical thinking.

**Lack of Teacher Training:** Not all educators are equipped with the skills or resources to integrate critical thinking into their teaching methods.

**Standardized Testing Pressures:** The emphasis on exam-based assessment often limits the opportunities for students to engage in deeper thinking processes.

**Limited Classroom Time:** Teachers may struggle to incorporate critical thinking activities alongside the standard curriculum.

### Methods for Developing Critical Thinking in Young Students

1. Problem-Based Learning – Setting questions and tasks that require logical thinking and the search for solutions fosters analytical skills in children.

2. Discussions and Debates – Engaging students in discussions helps them articulate their thoughts, analyze opposing arguments, and develop their own opinions.

3. Text and Information Analysis – Reviewing fairy tales, stories, news, and other sources helps children identify key ideas, distinguish facts from opinions, and draw conclusions.

4. Game-Based Methods – Quests, role-playing games, and logical puzzles encourage active involvement and enhance thinking abilities.



5. Error Analysis – Reviewing mistakes and seeking alternative solutions teach children to learn from their experiences and overcome challenges without fear.

### **Long-Term Benefits of Critical Thinking**

Developing critical thinking skills in primary school lays the foundation for successful learning in later years. Children with this skill adapt more easily to new conditions, process information effectively, build logical arguments, and make informed decisions. These abilities are especially valuable in adulthood, helping individuals navigate the modern world, make responsible choices, and engage as active members of society.

As they grow, individuals with strong critical thinking skills develop the capacity to construct logical arguments and consider multiple perspectives before forming opinions or making decisions. This analytical mindset helps them excel academically, as they can approach complex subjects with clarity and reasoning. Additionally, it fosters creativity, as critical thinkers explore different solutions rather than settling for the first answer that comes to mind.

In adulthood, critical thinking plays a vital role in personal and professional life. It enables individuals to make well-informed decisions regarding their careers, finances, and personal relationships. Whether assessing risks, solving workplace problems, or engaging in meaningful discussions, critical thinkers are better equipped to handle challenges logically and independently.

Beyond individual benefits, critical thinking also contributes to society as a whole. People who think critically are more likely to be responsible citizens, making informed choices about social and political issues. They engage in constructive debates, advocate for evidence-based policies, and contribute to a culture of reasoned discussion rather than emotional or biased decision-making.



Overall, fostering critical thinking skills from an early age leads to a lifetime of benefits, empowering individuals to become adaptable, analytical, and responsible members of society.

### **Conclusion**

Critical thinking is not just a skill but a fundamental ability that determines an individual's success in education, work, and life. Developing this competency in young students should be a priority in the education system. By using modern teaching methods, we can nurture a generation capable of independent thinking, analysis, and optimal decision-making in complex situations.

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