

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, Dayton will understand the basics of critical thinking, including how to analyze information, ask questions, and make reasoned decisions. He will be able to apply these skills in everyday situations and improve his problem-solving abilities.

## Materials and Prep

- Paper and pencil for notes and drawings
- A timer or stopwatch (can use a phone)
- Everyday objects around the house for observation (toys, kitchen items, etc.)
- Preparation: Think of a few simple problems or scenarios to discuss with Dayton.

## Activities

### • Observation Challenge

Dayton will choose three everyday objects from around the house. He will spend 5 minutes observing each object and writing down everything he notices about them. Afterward, he will share his observations and discuss why those details matter.

### • Question Game

Using the objects from the first activity, Dayton will create questions about each item. For example, "What is this used for?" or "Why is it shaped this way?" This will help him practice asking questions that lead to deeper understanding.

### • Problem-Solving Scenarios

Present Dayton with a simple problem, like "You have a friend who is sad. What can you do to help?" He will brainstorm solutions and discuss the pros and cons of each option, practicing how to make reasoned decisions.

### • Critical Thinking Story

Dayton will create a short story that includes a character facing a problem. He will outline how the character analyzes the situation, asks questions, and makes a decision. This will help him see critical thinking in action.

## Talking Points

- "Critical thinking is like being a detective. You look for clues and ask questions to solve a mystery!"
- "Asking questions is super important! The more questions you ask, the more you learn."
- "When you notice details about things, it helps you understand them better. What can you tell me about this object?"
- "Let's practice making decisions. What are some good choices you can make when helping a friend?"
- "Every problem has different solutions. Can you think of more than one way to solve a problem?"
- "Stories can teach us about critical thinking too. How do you think your character will solve their

problem?"

- "Remember, it's okay to make mistakes. They help us learn and think better next time!"
- "Critical thinking helps us in everyday life, like when we need to decide what to eat or how to spend our time."
- "Let's be curious! Curiosity is the first step to critical thinking."
- "The more you practice thinking critically, the better you'll get at it. Let's keep practicing together!"