

## Developing creating and critical thinking skills

**We all need thinking time and young children are no different. Think of all the information we bombard them with every day!**

In a busy nursery, it can be difficult to take a step back and give children time to think and consider their responses to our questions and instructions. As childcare practitioners, it is important that the children in your care develop creating and critical thinking skills to encourage having their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.

View our tips below to develop children's creating and critical thinking skills:

- Provide a wide range of interesting open-ended resources in various shapes, sizes, colours and textures
  - This stimulates their imagination and innate curiosity and encourages them to ask questions, explore and investigate
- Think about your environment and continuous provision
  - Look at your environment from a child's point of view; kneel down to a child's height or lie down and look around; what does the world look like? Is it exciting and stimulating?
- Young children can become totally absorbed in activities and experiences that stimulate them and their enthusiasm for investigation develops deeper over time.
  - Have a flexible approach by providing opportunities for children to revisit an activity they are engrossed in. Give plenty of time and space to support children to consolidate their learning and develop their concentration skills.

