

learn from experience

seek for a deeper level of understanding e

learn how to anticipate

 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3>  <table><tr><td>Criticism</td><td>Concentration</td></tr><tr><td>Creativity</td><td>Control</td></tr><tr><td>Curiosity</td><td>Correction</td></tr><tr><td>Communication</td><td></td></tr></table>	Criticism	Concentration	Creativity	Control	Curiosity	Correction	Communication		 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3> <h4>Criticism</h4>  <p>The ability to analyze, consider, study, question, compare, and form accurate judgments of value and worth.</p>
Criticism	Concentration								
Creativity	Control								
Curiosity	Correction								
Communication									
 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3>  <h4>Creativity</h4> <p>The ability to imagine, originate, invent and design new things.</p>	 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3>  <h4>Concentration</h4> <p>The ability to pay close attention and stay on task.</p>								
 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3>  <h4>Control</h4> <p>The ability to govern one's thoughts and feelings.</p>	 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3>  <h4>Correction</h4> <p>The ability to make necessary changes in one's beliefs, choices, and actions to improve the results.</p>								
 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3>  <h4>Curiosity</h4> <p>The ability to wonder, inquire, explore and seek out new information.</p>	 <h3>The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly</h3>  <h4>Communication</h4> <p>The ability to share ideas through listening, speaking, reading and writing.</p>								

Hindsight, Insight, and Foresight Questions

HIF Questions Serve Several Important Purposes

<http://choiceskills.com/index.html>

As Reading Comprehension Activities imbeded in your Homeschool Curriculum

1. They help you know **how much young people understand** of what they are learning.
2. They **require students to think** about and articulate the ideas they are learning.
3. They provide you with an **opportunity to expand** upon and clarify ideas they may not have fully understood.
4. And, most importantly, they help **young people develop** the invaluable qualities of **hindsight, insight, and foresight**.

The following questions can be used as reading comprehension activities in any homeschool curriculum. To learn how they may be most effectively utilized visit our [homeschool curriculum page](#) and our [reading comprehension activities page](#).

Hindsight Questions

Hindsight Questions are used to help young people **learn from experience**. We want them to learn from their **own experience** and, perhaps more importantly, we want them to learn from the **experiences of others**.

All too many youth go through life as if no one has ever lived before them, repeating mistakes of the past, and suffering what could have been avoided had they paid more attention to the experiences of others. Learning from the experiences of others, whether by observing people and events in real life, through literature, or in

some other way is an inexpensive way to learn lessons that can be both painful and costly to learn first hand.

But, even first hand learning can be profitable, if learning takes place. Unfortunately, many seem unable to learn, even from their own experience.

Hindsight questions are designed to help young people to develop this ability.

Insight Questions

Insight questions are designed to help students **seek for a deeper level of understanding** by looking beyond the obvious to consider things that are more obscure and less well understood without further investigation or thought.

Insight Questions are used to **help young people understand why things are the way they are** so they can know better what to do about them. Young people today are confronted with a world facing many complex and difficult challenges—the solutions of which will require every ounce of wisdom and understanding they will be able muster.

There are few things that can be of more benefit to the upcoming generation than to possess the quality of insight.

Foresight Questions

Foresight Questions are used to help young people **learn how to anticipate** the probable or likely consequences of their choices.

Our daily papers are full of stories of people in positions, both high and low, who have made choices without having considered the possible, even probable, consequences of those choices and the potential unhappiness associated with them.

If we can help young people develop the discipline of looking back at the past to see what has happened, to look at the nature of what it is they are contemplating doing, and to anticipate the possible outcomes of things they want to do, they will be in a far stronger position to make important choices in their lives.

To see how these questions are used in actual lessons, enter your name and email address in the box on the right and receive **FREE** 5 of the most important lessons any child can ever learn.

"If Ideas are the most powerful things in the world, then the most empowering thing in the world is to be able to distinguish a good Idea from a bad idea."

What is The Cardinal Character Trait?

**And Why is it Essential to Your Child's
Happiness and Well-Being?**

car.di.nal *adj.* <L. cardinalis, that on which something turns, of main importance, principal; chief.>

char.ac.ter *n.* 5. a distinctive trait, quality, or attribute, characteristic
6. essential quality; nature;; kind or sort 7. a pattern of behavior or personality found in an individual or group; moral constitution 8. moral strength; self-discipline; fortitude etc.

The Homeschooler Advantage

As a homeschooler your children can have a significant advantage over children taught in public schools. Every day, you have multiple opportunities to help your children develop the cardinal character trait. This is the missing piece in education. Benjamin Franklin described it as the foundation of all virtue and happiness. He expressed it this way:

" . . .as the happiness and well-being of all men consists in right action, and right action cannot be produced without right opinion, it behooves us above all things in this world to take that our opinions of things be according to the nature of things. The foundation of all happiness and well-being is thinking rightly."

**So what is the cardinal character trait?
It's The ability to think rightly!**

How important is the ability to think rightly? How dependent is good judgment on thinking rightly? Without it what is the basis for making choices that can reliably produce happiness and well-being? How can one ever hope to understand the nature of things without cultivating the ability to think rightly?

For example what is the nature of opinions? Well, for one thing most of us are very fond of our opinions and think we are right in them. Unfortunately, not all, if any, of our most coveted opinions are in accordance with the nature of things. As a result those that are not consistent with the nature of things subject us to making choices that are unsound and lead us to do things that are not always in our best interest.

Multiple Character Traits

But, as you might guess, the cardinal character trait, or the ability to think rightly, is a composite of several character traits or what what may be called elemental character traits.

You might also want to check out our page [Why Be a Homeschooler?](#)

Lifeskills and Character Traits Necessary for Thinking Rightly

What Are They?

The Ability to Think Rightly

The ability to think rightly, is the most important of all life's skills. But that doesn't help us much. It is not a quality that comes naturally to most of us. Moreover the ability to think rightly is a composite skill, one which is made up of several component skills we can clearly identify and consciously develop. Essentially these lifeskills can be categorized into three categories: emotional skills, social skills and thinking skills. Taken together they constitute the missing piece in education.

Under the inspiration of Benjamin Franklin, I have identified 7 thinking skills, 4 essential emotional skills and 3 essential social skills that are necessary for developing the emotional, social and thinking skills young people need to not only survive, but also thrive in the turbulent they now face. Together they comprise the character traits that give one the ability to think rightly.

7 Thinking Skills

There are seven thinking skills that lie at the root of the thinking rightly character trait. They are criticism, creativity, curiosity, communication, concentration, control and correction.

Each of these [lifeskills](#) has an important role in protecting us from the dangers of faulty thinking. None of them are adequate alone.

You will note that none of these skills are purely cognitive processes. First of all, reason is seldom separated from emotion. That is one of the reasons reason is not always an adequate guide to making sound choices. (See Benjamin Franklin's fish story) And reason alone is never adequate in protecting us from the likes of STG, a band of thieves out to rob us of common sense and good judgment or EPT a clandestine organization dedicated to the overthrow of civilization by flooding the world with error prone thinking.

That's why these thinking skills must be combined with well developed emotional and social skills.

4 Essential Emotional Skills

Four emotional skills are essential to personal happiness and well being. The earlier in life you can teach them to your children the better prepared they be for the choices they must make. These skills are Personal Responsibility, Self Respect, Respect for Others and Trustworthiness. Also thought of as virtues, you will note that the key element in all of these virtues is an emotional commitment to developing and demonstrating them in one's daily life.

In environments of commotion, confusion and contradiction it takes a great deal of emotional intelligence and skill to recognize our desires for what they are. It is not always easy to clearly distinguish between desires which are helpful from those which

are not. And without the will to choose and act in a manner consistent with our true self-interest even that ability will be of little help.

Will is nothing if not an emotional commitment. And emotional intelligence or skill is critical to assuring that our emotional commitments are consistent with our happiness and well being in nature of things.

3 Essential Social Skills

Would it be too much of a stretch of the imagination to suggest that the three essential social skills consist of 3 core beliefs, which if closely held will virtually assure that a person will find social acceptance among all right thinking people.

The core beliefs or essential social skills are:

1. There is a living, loving God who hears and answers prayers.
2. The greatest service of God is done good to man.
3. The golden rule is the gold standard in human relations.

[Click here to learn more about these 3 Essential Social Skills or core beliefs.](#)

[Click here to learn how these \[essential character traits\]\(#\) work together to form](#)

"If Ideas are the most powerful things in the world, then the most empowering thing in the world is to be able to distinguish a good Idea from a bad idea."

Do You Make These Mistakes In Teaching Character Education Lessons?

Mistake One Not Making Educating for Character a Priority

This usually happens because:

	The schedule is too full. There's not time to add anything else into the day much less time to prepare additional lessons
	There is no money in the budget for additional curriculum resources.

There is not enough interest or support from parents for a character education program.

While these are valid concerns, they are supported by invalid assumptions.

Assumption One

Character Development is of lesser importance than learning Math, English, Reading and other basic curriculum subjects. Two of the early advocates of Public Education, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson had the following to say on the subject.

"It is said that the Persians, in their constitution, had public schools in which virtue was taught as a liberal art or science, and it is certainly of more consequence to a man that he has learnt to govern his passions in spite of temptation, to be just in his dealings, to be temperate in his pleasures, to support himself with fortitude under misfortune, to behave with prudence in all his affairs and every circumstance of life, I say, it is of much more real advantage to him to be thus qualified, than to be master of all the arts and sciences in the world besides."

Benjamin Franklin's The Art of Virtue, page 21

In his notes on the State of Virginia published in 1785, Jefferson proposed that Virginia be divided into Counties and in each of them, establish a public school "for teaching reading, writing and arithmetic" and in which, "the first elements of morality too may be instilled into their minds: such as, when further developed as their judgments advance in strength, may teach them how to work out their own greatest happiness, by showing them that it does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed them, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation and freedom in all just pursuits. . ."

Assumption Two:

The teaching of character education and teaching reading, writing and arithmetic are competitive endeavors competing for scarce

resources in both time and money—Not true! When employing the Character Based Learning strategies utilized in "The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly" students develop **essential lifeskills** at the same time as learning math, history, science or any other subject.

Assumption Three:

It is difficult to believe parents would not wholly support any efforts on the part of the school to improve student performance. You ask, "How does character education improve student performance?"

- Would greater responsibility on the part of students help?
- How about better cooperation and increased respect for each other?
- What if you discovered that the Character Based Learning strategies you employed stimulated a greater interest in learning as well as increased comprehension and retention of information by helping students recognize the relevance of the topics they are studying to their own lives?

The fact is that teaching character education involves helping children develop essential lifeskills that can empower them to make choices that will improve every aspect of their lives.

Mistake Two Not Focusing on the Cardinal Character Trait Everyone Needs but Few People Have

Because behaviors are readily observable to us, we tend to think of them as the problem when, in reality, they are merely symptoms of the problem. The root cause behind these behaviors lies in the mind, not in the actions of the individual.

The most important character trait we can teach young people is how to think rightly.

Charles Darwin provided some important insight on this when he wrote in *The Descent of Man*

"The highest possible stage in moral culture is when we recognize that we ought to control our thoughts. . . Whatever makes any bad action familiar to the mind, renders its performance so much the easier."

Sign up now in the box to the right and immediately begin receiving seven of the most important lessons any child can ever learn and become part of the conversation on

how you can teach the [cardinal character trait](#) to the children you teach and help them develop essential [lifeskills](#) that will empower them to achieve their full potential..

You're Not Teaching Social Skills Lessons for The Fun of It

But That Doesn't Mean it Can't Be Fun

Behavior problems are never fun to deal with. Apart from being unpleasant, they are often disruptive to your class, time consuming to deal with and sometimes hurtful to one or more of the individuals involved. The more serious the problem, the more unpleasant, disruptive and time consuming it is. But, as with so many aspects of life, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The fact is teaching young people the skills necessary for positive social interaction can be fun and rewarding as well as helpful in improving the performance of your students, both behaviorally and academically.

Introducing The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly

"In reviewing *The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly*, I felt it added a dimension to teaching social skills that I had yet to find. One of the strengths was how it combined language-based skills into the social skills lessons.

Another strength was the creative activities which are a part of every social skill presented. It is, by far, the most creative social skills program I have ever reviewed.

A third strength is the number of activities from which one can choose. The most frequently used social skills programs are those that don't demand much advanced preparation for those using it."

*Sandy Sanders
Covered Bridge School District*

What Teachers Are Saying

“The imaginative activities and examples make the teaching fun and that’s when teachers and students get excited.”

*T. Helmstetter,
Media Generalist,
Forest Hills Elementary*

The books are very “teacher friendly.” The stories can easily be integrated into an existing curriculum, adding a broader perspective and teaching of life skills while teaching what is required in state core. The other thing I like about these books is that they can be used for any subject area and are a great resource for ESL and special needs classrooms.

*Chris Campbell Gremler
Coordinator, Community of Caring
Granite School District*

The lessons raise children's awareness of their thinking and they empower children to change their own thinking and question the thinking and behavior of others. . . lessons are simple to prepare and are fun for the children.

*Wendy Liguori
8:1:1 Social Worker
Beecher & Riverside Elementary*

These lessons are fun because they involve doing things kids like to do, but they are not cotton candy. These are serious lessons relevant to experiences your students have on a daily basis and which touch their lives in very personal ways. They are designed to help students:

DEVELOP THEIR EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL AND THINKING SKILLS

By helping young people focus on developing their emotional, social and thinking skills, several important things happen to improve their behavior. Visit our web page describing the specific [emotional and social skills](#) we are talking about.

- It allows teachers and students to objectively examine together the thought

processes that lead to self-defeating social skills in fun and non-threatening ways

- It helps students to understand the connection between attitudes, behaviors and consequences
- It enables students to recognize the relevance of what they are learning, and
- It encourages students to take greater ownership of their choices and actions
- All of which are essential ingredients for positive social interactions.

▶ **DEVELOP ESSENTIAL CHARACTER TRAITS**

Every lesson in *The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly* provides students opportunities to develop [character traits](#) such as personal responsibility, self-respect, respect for others and trustworthiness—all essential to overcoming social skills deficits.

▶ **DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING**

The Seven C's of Thinking Clearly employs several important comprehension and retention strategies designed to help students understand why certain attitudes and behaviors are more beneficial and productive than others.

- A rich literature base of high interest stories enables students to understand the inescapable link between attitudes, behaviors, and consequences.
- The [mental imagery](#) of "The Stinkn' Thinking Gang", "EPT", and "The CT Team" characters is especially helpful to students in learning to overcome negative and counterproductive thinking.
- A wide range of fun, "Is-Like" learning activities enable students translate familiar everyday experiences into an understanding of abstract concepts, which in turn, helps them to better distinguish appropriate behaviors for given situations.
- The use of [Hindsight, Insight, Foresight questions](#) along with other cooperative learning strategies require active student involvement in the learning process.
- The activities and stories are relevant to experiences your students are having on a daily basis.

Essential Lifeskills

These short, easy to prepare lessons are curriculum friendly and fun to present. In addition to teaching skills important to daily life, each lesson meets core curriculum standards making them easy to integrate into your daily schedule.

Put these all together and you have multiple opportunities every day for teaching your students lifeskills they need to safely navigate the troubled waters of a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world. To learn more about these essential skills visit our web page that identifies specifically which [lifeskills](#) we are talking about.

"I felt like I was teaching something very valuable to my

students."
Elementary

J. Bewick, Northridge

"Students really relaxed and had fun. Some commented on how good the stories were."

L. Stevens, Northwest Intermediate

"Extremely appropriate for my students. Skills they are lacking and need desperately. They stayed involved and were able to participate"

J. Stuy, Lindon Elementary

"The students were very attentive. They enjoyed the subject matter and were able to bring their own experiences into the discussion and relate to it."

R. Tiffany, Highland Elementary

"My students surprised me with their depth of feeling and comments."

D. Ricks, Franklin Elementary

Enter your name and email address in the box to the right and you will immediately receive **FREE** five of the most important lessons any child can ever learn. It will also enable you to become part of the conversation on how we can best supply the missing piece in education to the youth of today.