

Agora

By Jelena Savković

✉ connect@ecagora.com

☎ +381645014051



Authentic learning - workshop for parents

This workshop is designed for parents of students. Parents get a glance into the importance of alignment between school's educational values and family values. The purpose of the workshop is to give parents simple tools that they can implement into their family life anytime, immediately and cost-free, and that will support skills development in their children. These tools help in making learning meaningful, authentic and effective, by connecting real-life outside of school and academic activities from school. By using communication techniques from this workshop, parents and schools create an environment **where learning meets life**.

Workshop objectives

- To identify **opportunities** for learning in a real-life setting
- To be able to use **conflict** for developing communication, social and self-management skills
- To explore **visible thinking routines** in everyday life

Resources and supplies

- Skills list
- Take-away respectful disagreement prompt
- Visible thinking questions
- Reading as thinking poster
- Creativity poster
- Handout strategies from Faber and Mazlish
- Big classroom
- Projector
- Papers and pens

Skills

In this workshop session, parents will have the opportunity to:

- communicate
- analyze
- identify
- reflect
- classify
- make connections



Flow of activities and learning engagements

Welcome and introduction to the workshop – 3 min.

Getting to know each other through the question “What’s authentic to you?” – 5 min.

Introducing “authentic learning” through def. and chart – 5 min.

Activity 1: Parents will investigate everyday family setting as a source of learning opportunities. They will brainstorm the skills needed, the thinking triggers questions and authentic audience. Group charts – 10 min.

Activity 2: Parents will, individually, underline those skills from the ATL list that are needed in conflict resolution. Quick verbal sharing. Answering questions from the board. – 5+5 min.

Activity 3: Parents will complete and share their exercises from the previous session: a) deny the feeling, b) step into troubling shoes, c) name it to tame it and acknowledging feelings – 20 min.

Activity 3: Parents will scan through these skills clusters and create a question for each skill, that might serve as a thinking trigger. Annotating on a skills paper, individually. – 10 min.

Activity 4: Slow looking activity – 15 min.

Debrief about thinking skills and a memory tip – 10 min.

Thanks and closing the workshop – 3 min.

Sneak peek into the resources

Daily, montly, yearly or/and once in a lifetime situations within our family setting:	1. What soft or hard skills can we connect these opportunities with?
2. What triggering questions/statems can we say to stimulate thinking, connections and involvement?	3. What authentic audience can our home provide for children as learners?

Authentic learning situations

Thinking triggers

Authentic audience

- Family budgeting
- Cooking
- Holiday planning
- Home renovation
- Buying/fixing a car/electronics/objects in the house
- Babysitting
- Including children in our businesses (responding to emails and letters, taking orders and calls...)
- Chores
- Meal planning
- Ratios, probability and statistics, algebra, trigonometry (maths)
- Cell biology, genetics (bio)
- Forces and motion, sound, light, electromagnetism (physics)
- Oxidation, bonding, (chem)
- Animation, architecture, sculpture, digital art, color theory... (arts)
- Design
- Revolutions, ideologies, climate, development (IS)
- Fitness, lifestyle, biomechanics (phe)

Sneak peek into the resources

Conflict

- the queen of the real-life situations -

Activity 2 – 10 min.: Underline the skills from the ATL skills list that can be developed through conflict.

- Listening What can you say during conflict that will show that you have listened to the other?
- Perspective taking What can help you be able to take the other's perspective?
- Respectful disagreement How do you show that you disagree, but still respect the other?

Memory tip

- Log term and short term memory
- 4 factors of effective long term memory storage:
 1. Novelty
 2. Repetition
 3. Association
 4. Emotional connotation

Sneak peek into the resources

Thinking skills

Slow looking [activity \(15 min.\)](#)



1. Observe and describe what you see
2. Ask questions
3. Make connections
4. Consider viewpoints
5. Interpret
6. Back up with evidence
7. Capture the meaning by sharing

Thinking skills

Reading/viewing as thinking

Connecting What does this make you think of? What does it remind you of? What is it similar to?

Questioning Why is that important? What does this word mean? How does it compare to something else?

Reviewing What did you think before you read/saw this? What do you think after you read/saw it?

Evaluating What do you like about what you've read? What was hard? How does that make sense to you?

Predicting What do you think this will be about? What do you think the character will do and why?

Visualizing What do you see? How do you imagine this/that?

Summarizing Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Synthesizing What's your position about these two authors/opinions? What conclusions can you make about the topic after hearing different perspectives?

(handout)