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Caleb Greenwood is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School implementing the Primary Years Program (PYP).

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

<https://www.ibo.org/>

IB PYP NEWS!

October learner profile
and Action Focus:

Thinker Lifestyle Choices

Being a **Thinker** allows you to use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. Thinkers weigh facts and opinions when gaining new knowledge and make reasoned, ethical decisions. This discriminate thought and reflection may result in Action in the form of a **Lifestyle Choice** – it may impact your decision to take the elevator or stairs in pursuit of healthier living; it may change what you buy or the businesses you frequent; it might have you take a closer look at your news sources; it may even change the way you get to work! Think about issues and problems from many angles, considering facts and opinions, as well as alternative solutions, when making choices that impact your day-to-day life.

Our First School-Wide IB PYP Unit of Inquiry Revealed!

THEME: Who We Are

CENTRAL IDEA:

Affirming our differences can strengthen a community.

LINES OF INQUIRY:

- Differences in people, families, and communities
- How we affirm differences
- How differences strengthen a community

Learner Profile Focus:

Open-Minded (September)

Thinker (October)

Action Focus:

Lifestyle Choices

What is the IB learner profile?



The International Baccalaureate® (IB) learner profile describes a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond academic success. They imply a commitment to help all members of the school community learn to respect themselves, others and the world around them.

[IB learner profile](#)

What is ACTION in the IB PYP?



In the PYP, action is both an application of learning and an opportunity for students to engage in a form of contribution or service. It is integral to PYP learning and to the program's overarching outcome of international mindedness.

The learner profile & ACTION Connection

Action, the learner profile, and international mindedness work hand in hand to strengthen students' confidence in their capacity to make a positive change in the world. Student-initiated action will be considered a dynamic outcome of a student's learning and an active demonstration of the learner profile attributes. Each month we will focus on a learner profile attribute and how it connects and nurtures a child's disposition towards Action.

How can we start support the IB PYP Unit of Inquiry at home?

Encouraging Critical Thinking Skills
Younger Children

Ask open-ended questions: Start off by asking your kids questions that do not have one right answer. For example, once you have finished reading a story to your child ask questions such as: Can you describe what happened? What is the moral of the story? Encouraging free thinking encourages children to respond creatively without being afraid of giving the wrong answer.

Compare & Contrast: The next time you go out for a walk with your kids, ask them to compare and contrast a tree from a flower. Ask them: tell me how these things are different. How are they the same? Comparing and contrasting is a fun game that can be played anytime and anywhere with your kids. You can even compare and contrast ice cream sundaes with ice cream cones.

Make Decisions: The next time you ask your kids what they want to do on the weekend, help them weigh out the pros and cons. Remember there are no right or wrong answers, the point is you want them to make decisions! Ask your child: How do you feel about your decision? Do you like the decision you have made? By forming different opinions about the things they like and dislike, they will be able to sort out their preferences and be able to make better decisions.

Summarize: Summarizing can help kids improve critical thinking practice because they must think outside of the box before they express their thoughts and opinions. For example, get your child to summarize their favorite movie, cartoon, or script that they have seen or read. It will broaden their imagination and get their critical thinking caps on!

[Teaching Your Kids Critical Thinking Skills](#)

[How to Teach Kids Critical Thinking Skills](#)

Encouraging Critical Thinking Skills
Older Children

Teach Your Child to Question What They Read or Hear: Teach your children to ask questions about what they read, see, and hear. Is it a reliable news source? A fellow classmate who has only heard it from someone else? The right questions can lead to discussions about the state of the world or other relevant topics.

Make Thinking a Family Affair: Use the times that you are together as a family—around the dinner table, during long car rides, or while on a weekend picnic—to bring up topics that encourage questions and problem-solving techniques. “What do you think of such-and-such?” Or, “What is your opinion on ____?” Leave the floor open for discussion, and always be open-minded yourself during these conversations.

Go Deeper: Encourage your kids to read books on similar topics, watch movies related to the topic, or visit the local library together to study and keep the conversation going. Do not be afraid to let them explore a topic of interest. If they are showing some critical-thinking skills in the realm of politics, for example, you can study world history or watch relevant documentaries on the subject.

Teach Them to Be Socially Responsible: Talk about their social network “news” and why it may or may not be a good idea to share certain stories. During your discussions, bring up the point about their social networks being a public platform, which can either be used for good or have negative repercussions and even be a place for “fake news.” Teach them to pause and check in with themselves before automatically sharing something on the internet.

Remember, critical thinking is more than just being rational. It's about the ability to think independently. When your children can draw their own conclusions and make up their own minds on matters, without being “swayed” by peers or even other adults, then they will be true critical thinkers!