



POPEY @ Home & School

Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years

Home & School Learning Menu

#11



Thinking



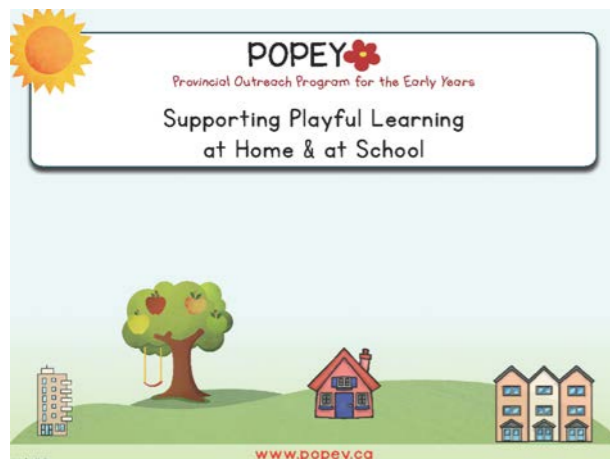
Menu #11 is dedicated to the **Thinking Core Competency** and Play!

For our last menu, the **POPEY** team is sharing some of their favourite activities that help creative, critical, and reflective thinking, including connecting to these through play.

These activities can be used at **home** or at **school**.

Educators: Embedded in the menu are links to potential black-line masters and self-assessment support documents

Additional Support:



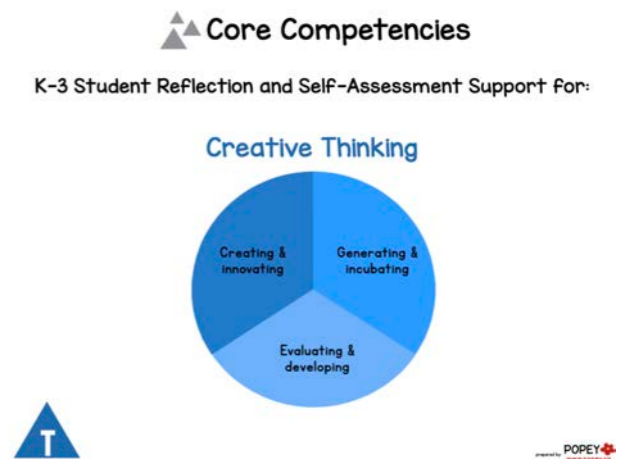
[Supporting Playful Learning](#)

:support for playful learning at home and at school



[Brain Break Activities](#)

:activities for breathing & movement for when it's break time



K-3 Student Self Assessment Support Documents

[Creative Thinking](#)
[Critical and Reflective Thinking](#)

Learning Menu

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Connection to Animals

Animals may be noticing the changes in human behaviour recently. They may be noticing that for a time there were not as many people gathering outside, walking in the streets, or playing on the beach. Now, people are starting to become more noticeable to animals again.

Choose an animal that lives in your area and consider what they might be thinking.

For example, a squirrel might be wondering why there were not as many families camping.

Tell a story from the perspective of an animal during COVID-19. You may write, draw, or use your voice to tell your story. Be creative!

-pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)

My Dream Park

Design your dream park on a piece of paper. Label each area.

Show your work to someone and tell them about your park by answering these questions:

*Who is your park for?
What will people do at your park?
What animals will be in your park?
What will there be to play on?
What else will happen in your dream park?*

For ideas of how to design an area, you can [read and listen to the book If I Built a School](#).

-pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)

Creating With Nature

What's your favourite thing you can find outside?

The leaves? The flowers? The rocks? The grass? The sticks?

Without disturbing anything (*work with a grown-up*), find some treasures from nature that you can bring inside and create some art with.

You could [put paint on a flower - and use the flower as paintbrush](#), [do a leaf rubbing with crayons](#), build or [build an inuksuk with rocks](#).

Play with different ideas, objects from nature, and materials for art that you have.

More art and nature ideas are available [here](#) and [here](#)

-pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)

Your Idea Jar

Do you ever get stuck coming up with ideas?

We all get stuck sometimes. It can be coming up with something to write about, what to play, where to go...Having some strategies for thinking and brainstorming is very helpful.

Talk with your family and friends (*at home, at school, and online*) and ask them:

*:What do they do when they get an idea?
:How do they 'brainstorm'?
:What helps them as they're thinking of ideas?*

Keep track of the strategies you get. (*write them down or keep them digitally*). You can keep these all in 1 place, so the next time you get stuck, you've got some ideas.

Extra fun - ask each person to tell you their favourite activity - without a screen (*activities that aren't - computer, iPad, video games,...*) - keep those ideas for when you're stuck for something to do!

For ideas about ideas, you can [read and listen to the book - The Idea Jar](#)

-pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)



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Flip That Flop

Have you ever made a mistake?
Of course you have!
We all do.

Mistakes sometimes feel like we've done something wrong, but we often learn the most through mistakes.

Think about mistakes you've made and lessons you've learned. Talk through mistakes and lessons with family and/or friends (*at home, at school, and online*).

Draw and/or write about 1 mistake (*or a 'flop'*) and what you learned *because* you made the mistake. (*how you 'flipped that flop'*)

[Read and listen to the book *It's Okay to Make Mistakes*](#) to help you think about how we can learn from mistakes.

-a blackline master and pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)

Put on a Play

Sometimes it can be fun to pretend to be someone else. Playing dress-up or acting can help us do that!

Dress-up in someone's clothes at home (*don't forget to ask!*), or make some puppets - can be pictures on sticks, using small stuffies, using socks, and more.

Use your dress-up clothes and/or your puppets to come up with a story. Ask others to join you, if you need.

Put on a performance for family and/or friends (*at home, at school, and online*).

-pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)

What Would You Build?

Work with a grown-up to gather recycling from around the house (or classroom).

Begin to build something with the recycling materials.

What did you build?
Why?

What changes did you make to your creation as you built it?
Why?

Talk through your creation with someone at home, school, or virtually.

-pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)

Take a Break

How do you feel when you know you need a break?
Grumpy?
Tired?
Confused?

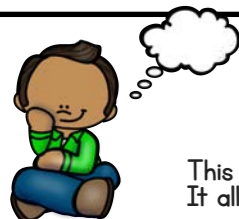
It's important to know when to take a break, and to know ways to help get your brain and body back to a happier place.

Talk with your family and friends (*at home, at school, and online*) and ask them:
:What do they do when they need a break? (what are their strategies)

Keep track of the strategies you get. (*write them down or keep them digitally*). You can keep these all in 1 place, so you've got a list of strategies to use when you need a break.

You can use these [Brain Break Activities](#) for some ideas - or if you need to take a break!

-pages to capture student reflection and self-assessment for this activity can be found [here](#)



This menu is designed to be like a "buffet menu" - to have **flexible** and **open-ended options**. It allows the opportunity to pick and choose, based on children's interest, feelings, materials, opportunities, schedules,...(*rather than a "to-do" list*)

Online Resources to Support Thinking



Below are different tools and ideas to for thinking, discovering, and playing.

[Earth School - from TedEd](#)

:quests for kids to celebrate, explore and connect with nature

[National Geographic Kids](#)

:explore countries, animals, facts,...

[SciShow Kids](#)

:answers to some of your "why" questions through a variety of videos

[CBC Kids](#)

:variety of videos, games & activities

[Art Bar](#)

:learning at home art ideas

[DASH BC](#)

:healthy at home ideas

[Discovery Education - Virtual Field Trips](#)

[Bill Nye the Science Guy](#)

:videos on different science concepts

[NASA Kids' Club](#)

:learning about NASA & various space missions

[StoryJumper](#)

:write, illustrate, publish & record their stories/texts

[GoNoodle](#)

:move and learn at home activities

[FitSanford](#)

:play & movement ideas

