



WILDERNESS
SCHOOL

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Habits of Mind

Together we can work to develop your daughter's habits of success in life, school and work. Habits of Mind are patterns of thinking and behaving intelligently. They guide children when they encounter problems and challenges in their lifelong learning. Wilderness School has been working with the Habits of Mind for many years now and has a strong commitment to crafting, exploring meaning and expanding our capacity to deliver a Habits of Mind infused curriculum.

We encourage all teachers and students to foster the acquisition of the sixteen types of intelligent behaviours called 'Habits of Mind' in all school activities, as advocated by Professor Arthur Costa, Emeritus Professor of California State University, USA. Apart from deepening the thinking skills of students, these 'Habits of Mind' will aid both students and adults in school and everyday life as they encounter problems, dilemmas and enigmas, the resolutions of which are not immediately apparent.

The sixteen **Habits of Mind** are detailed below:

1. Persisting

Stick to it! Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up.

2. Managing impulsivity

Take your Time! Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberative.

3. Listening with understanding and empathy

Understand Others! Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas. Make an effort to perceive another's point of view and emotions.

4. Thinking flexibly

Look at it Another Way! Being able to change perspectives, generate alternatives, consider options.

5. Thinking about your thinking (Metacognition)

Know your knowing! Being aware of your own thoughts, strategies, feelings and actions and their effects on others.

6. Striving for accuracy

Check it again! Always doing your best. Setting high standards. Checking and finding ways to improve constantly.



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7. Questioning and problem posing

How do you know? Having a questioning attitude; knowing what data are needed and developing questioning strategies to produce those data. Finding problems to solve.

8. Applying past knowledge to new situations

Use what you Learn! Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.

9. Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision

Be clear! Striving for accurate communication in both written and oral form; avoiding over generalizations, distortions, deletions and exaggerations.

10. Gather data through all senses

Use your natural pathways! Pay attention to the world around you Gather data through all the senses; taste, touch, smell, hearing and sight.

11. Creating, imagining, and innovating

Try a different way! Generating new and novel ideas, fluency, originality

12. Responding with wonderment and awe

Have fun figuring it out! Finding the world awesome, mysterious and being intrigued with phenomena and beauty.

13. Taking responsible risks

Venture out! Being adventuresome; living on the edge of one's competence. Try new things constantly.

14. Finding humor

Laugh a little! Finding the whimsical, incongruous and unexpected. Being able to laugh at oneself.

15. Thinking interdependently

Work together! Being able to work in and learn from others in reciprocal situations. Team work.

16. Remaining open to continuous learning

I have so much more to learn! Having humility and pride when admitting we don't know; resisting complacency.