



CARSON GRAHAM
SECONDARY

Approaches to Learning Conversation Starters

Over the past year, your child has been working on and thinking about their growth in the five overarching Approaches to Learning (ATL) Skills: Self-management, Communication, Thinking, Social and Research. In May and June, each student completed a self-assessment of their growth and progress in these five broad-based competencies. One of the ways parents can help students clarify their thinking about their individual profiles is through open-ended questions.

Below are some conversation starters parents can use to talk to their child about their ATL growth:

Parents can ask their child: "At school,..."

Communication:

- What are some of the ways you like to show your learning?

Critical Thinking:

- How does your learning in _____ connect with what you have learned before?
- How has your thinking about _____ changed? What made it change?
- What strategies do you use to decide if you should believe something you read?
- How did you develop these strategies? What advice would you give to a younger student about figuring out what is true?

Creative Thinking:

- How do you come up with ideas when you want to make something new at school or at home?
- What makes you want to get new ideas or try something new?

Social Responsibility:

- What contribution have you made to our school that you feel good about? How did you get started doing that?

Positive and Personal Cultural Identity:

- What are your strengths as a learner and how do you learn best? What are some aspects that you value about your culture?
- How do you use your strengths and abilities in your family, relationships, and community?

Personal Awareness and Responsibility:

- Tell me about one of your learning goals. How did you come to choose that goal? Tell me about something you are doing to help you work on that goal.

