



GOING MENTAL FOR RENTAL

Think of new ways of doing things.

The best businesses are always thinking of alternative ways to do things. For example, in this webisode, Singh's Sports is saved from closing its doors thanks to a new business plan. In addition to selling sports equipment, the shop will now rent some out as well.

Motivate kids to be flexible thinkers.

Ask kids: How did creative thinking (looking at something in a new way) help club members save Mr. Singh's sports business? Why is it important to come up with new ways to do things?

Look for new solutions to problems.

Just because something doesn't work out the first time doesn't mean you should give up. Encourage your child to be a creative problem solver by finding a different way to do something or coming up with a new idea. Talk about how creative thinking involves taking risks, experimenting, and even failing. But remind kids that we all make mistakes—and we can learn from them.

Activities:

1. Turn your trash into treasure. Challenge your child to come up with new uses for old things around your house. You'll be teaching your kids to think critically, save money—and help the environment—at the same time. For instance, bottle caps can double as checker pieces or an empty cereal box can be turned into a magazine holder.
2. Like business managers, inventors constantly think of new ways to do things. Invite your child to invent a new product, like a robot that cleans bedrooms or a car that flies. Draw a picture of the invention. Create an Invention Museum in your house so your young inventor can display the creation and explain how it works.
3. Observe different paintings with your child and point out unique styles. Invite your child to paint a nature scene. Have your child brainstorm different tools besides brushes that can be used, such as sponges, cotton swabs, cotton balls, string, or even utensils like plastic forks.

Tip: Encourage your child to become a creative thinker who has the ability to generate new ideas for things or to view objects or situations in alternative ways. For instance, next time you're giving someone a gift, encourage your child to come up with an alternative to traditional wrapping paper. Ask: What can we use instead?

