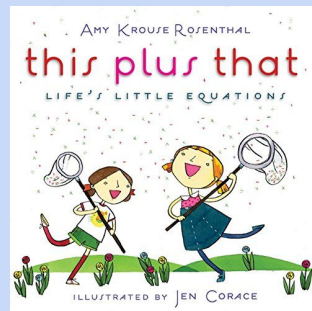


# Critical and Creative Thinking for Families (Volume 17)

→ Directions: Look over these activities and choose one (or more) that seem interesting to you.

## Encapsulation

We use **encapsulation** to help identify the essence of an idea. An encapsulation is brief and concise.



### A Focus on Springtime

- What rises in your mind when you think of springtime?
- Create a list of things that capture the things you might see, smell, touch, taste, or hear during Spring.
- Use those ideas to create to build some Springtime Equations.
- Consider drawing a picture of one of your favorite equations.

## Visible Thinking: 10 x 2 Routine

**Step 1:** Look at the image quietly for at least 30 seconds. Let your eyes wander.

**Step 2:** List 10 words or phrases about any aspect of the picture.

**Step 3:** Repeat steps 1 and 2. Look at the image again and try to add 10 more words or phrases to your list.



Claude Monet, *The Japanese Footbridge*, 1899, oil on canvas  
overall: 81.3 x 101.6 cm (32 x 40 in.)

National Gallery of Art Washington, Gift of Victoria Nebeker Coberly, in memory of her son John W. Mudd, and Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg, 1992.9.1

# Critical and Creative Thinking for Families (Volume 17)

→ Directions: Look over these activities and choose one (or more) that seem interesting to you.

## Fluency, Flexibility, Originality, Elaboration

### The Candy Garden

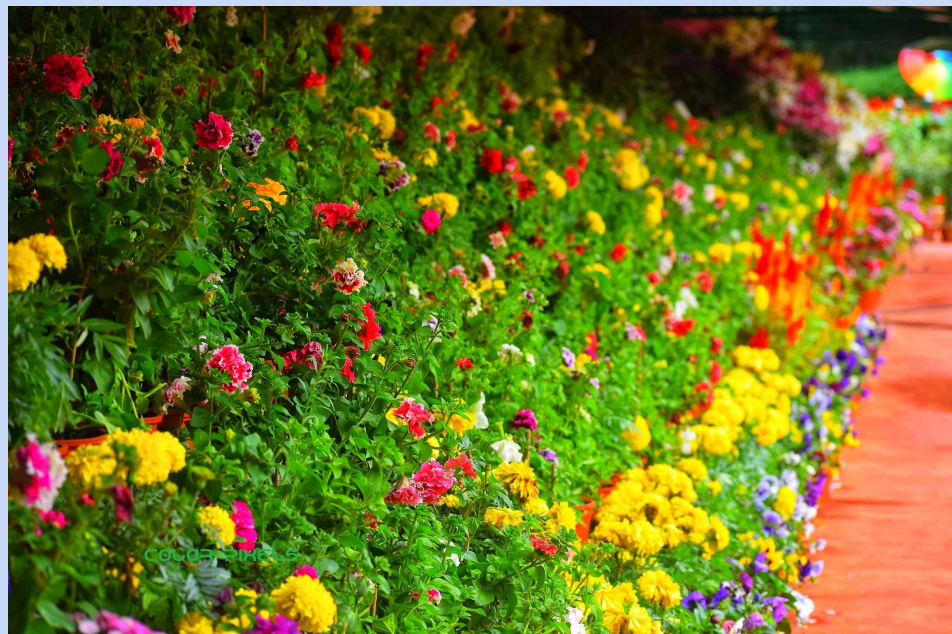
Springtime is often a time of year when people plant gardens.

**Fluency:** Make a list of things you might find a garden.

**Flexibility:** Now imagine you that all of those items are actually sweet treats that you can eat! What types of food would you need? What food would you use for the soil?

**Originality:** Create a design for a Candy Garden. Fill it with a wide variety of candy plants, flowers, etc.

**Elaboration:** Use pictures and labels to highlight the features of your garden.



## Habits of Mind - Thinking Flexibly

In this activity, we will use a structure called **Convince Me That...**

The process is pretty simple. Read the statement below and convince someone that it is true.

We will stick with our Spring theme for this activity. I also snuck in some math symbols.

### Convince Me That

- 1) **Spring > Summer** (spring is better than summer)
- 2) **Spring < Winter** (spring is not as great as winter)
- 3) **Fall < Spring < Summer** (spring is better than fall, but not as good as summer)





## Encapsulation

When we think of what it means to encapsulate something, we think about getting at the essence of an idea, object, or perhaps period of time. We need to think deeply and synthesize information in order to get heart of idea, object, or period of time.



## 10 x 2 Thinking Routine

This routine is one of the Visible Thinking routines developed by Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The purpose of this routine is to help students slow down and make careful, detailed observations by encouraging them to push beyond first impressions and obvious features

## Fluency, Flexibility, Originality, and Elaboration

These thinking strategies and processes help students brainstorm, make connections, and develop creative ideas.

**Fluency** – The ability to generate numerous ideas or alternatives to solve a problem that requires a novel solution.

**Flexibility** – The ability to consider a number of different perspectives in an effort to generate a wide variety of ideas or alternatives.

**Originality** – The ability to generate novel, unique, and rare ideas or alternatives to solve a problem that requires an innovative solution.

**Elaboration** – The ability to generate a large number of details or descriptions that explain a specific and novel solution to a problem.



## Habits of Mind – Thinking Flexibly

When we think flexibly, we are able to change perspectives. We consider the ideas of others.

**Remember, you can S.C.A.M.P.E.R. any of these activities on the first page. This might make them more interesting and enjoyable to work on.**