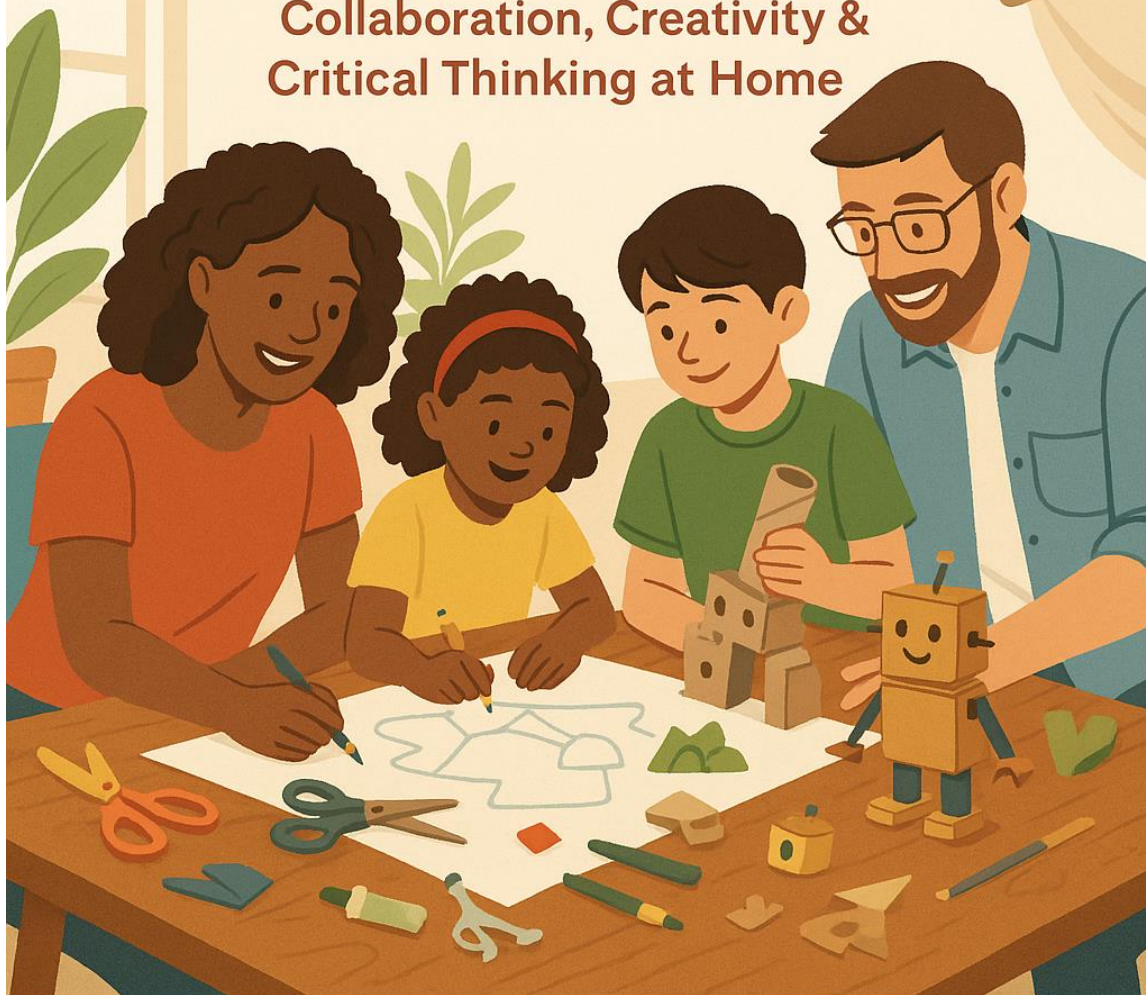


# Raising Real-World Ready Learners

A Parent's Guide to Building  
Collaboration, Creativity &  
Critical Thinking at Home



[AscensionLearningInc.org](https://www.AscensionLearningInc.org)

## ***Raising Real-World Ready Learners***

### **A Parent's Guide to Building Collaboration, Creativity & Critical Thinking at Home**

*A flexible resource from Ascension Learning*

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#### **Welcome from Ascension Learning**

*Learning that sticks isn't memorized—it's experienced.*

Whether your child learns at home, in school, or somewhere between, you're here because you want more than test scores. You want your child to grow into a curious, capable human who works well with others, solves real problems, and builds with empathy.

This guide is a starting point. There is no grading, no pressure, just thoughtful experiences that bring families together through creativity, conversation, and collaboration.

Let's build something meaningful—together.

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#### **10 Conversation Starters That Grow Thinkers**

Use these prompts at the dinner table, in the car, or during a walk.

- "What's something we rely on daily that could be improved?"
  - "If you had \$100 to help our community, how would you use it?"
  - "Who do you admire, and what problem are they trying to solve?"
  - "What's something you think adults forget about kids?"
  - "How do you know when someone is really listening to you?"
  - "If you had to rebuild our house to be more fun, what would you add?"
  - "What does a good teammate do when things go wrong?"
  - "How could we make someone's day today without spending money?"
  - "What's something unfair in the world, and how could you improve it?"
  - "If you could teach one thing to the world, what would it be?"
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### 3 Mini Experiences for Building Real-World Skills

*Each activity builds collaboration, empathy, and design thinking, with minimal prep.*

#### 1. The Space of Belonging

"Redesign one corner of your home to make someone else feel more welcome."

- Interview each family member: *What helps you feel safe, included, and calm?*
- Design and decorate together using items you already own.
- Reflect: *How does space affect how people feel?*

#### 2. The Slow Invention Challenge

"Design something that helps people slow down."

- Think about: What moments feel rushed in our lives?
- Build a prototype using recyclables, blocks, or sketches.
- Share it with someone and ask: *Would this help you slow down?*

#### 3. The Secret Strength Hunt

"Find three things each person in the family is amazing at—but never brags about."

- Create a "strength deck" together (with simple words or drawings).
  - Use those strengths to dream up a team project that combines them.
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## ✂ Build Your Own Challenge

*A simple way to create your own empathy-driven, creative project as a family.*

### Step 1: Pick a Focus

- Our neighborhood
- Our home
- A friend or family member
- A problem in the world
- An imaginary world

### Step 2: Ask "How Might We..."

For example:

- How might we... make someone feel more included?
- ...make something easier for an older person to use?
- ...make chores more fun?
- ...improve how we share ideas?
- ...create a more peaceful morning?

### Step 3: Dream, Design, Build

- Sketch ideas.
  - Test a prototype.
  - Get feedback.
  - Celebrate your efforts, even if it's messy!
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## ❤️ Team Tips for Parents

*How to nurture leadership, resilience, and collaboration (even with siblings).*

- **Let kids lead.** Let them set the tone and drive the process even if it's chaotic.
  - **Normalize feedback.** Use phrases like: "What worked well?" and "What would you try differently next time?"
  - **Reframe mistakes.** Celebrate learning over "right answers."
  - **Rotate roles.** For team projects, give each child a chance to be:
    - The Visionary (big idea person)
    - The Builder (hands-on helper)
    - The Checker (reviews and refines)
    - The Storyteller (presents the project)
  - **Ask more than you tell.** Curiosity leads the way.
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## 🌱 About Ascension Learning

*We believe in the magic of making.*

Ascension Learning helps young people discover their strengths, connect through collaboration, and build real-world skills through empathy-driven design. Our project-based learning experiences are built to meet learners where they are—at school, at home, or anywhere in between.

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*Create the story. Build the world. Be the hero.*

