

# Predictive Poster

A Predictive Poster has been added to this kit as a consumable item. The obvious questions are, “Why?” and “What am I supposed to do with it?”

The short version: It is vitally important to the neurological development and learning of children to help them consciously go through the process of making predictions, thinking about the consequences of their predictions, testing the predictions, and evaluating the results (also called hypothetico-predictive thinking).

*If* - the length of the arms on the air-copter doesn't make a difference in how fast the air-copter falls (initial idea)  
*and* - we make an air-copter with longer arms (behavioral test)  
*then* - it should fall the same as one with shorter arms. (prediction)  
*Because* - the air-copter with longer arms took longer (what really happens)  
*therefore* - the length of the arms makes a difference in how fast it falls. (conclusion)

Suddenly there is a contradiction between what we thought would happen and what actually happened. Attention increases as the search for new answers, tests, and predictions begins. Neurologically, brain activity increases as past experience is searched for alternative answers or new ideas are generated.

*If* - when adding fractions you're supposed to add the numerators and denominators (initial idea)  
*and* - I follow that rule when adding  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$ , (behavioral test)  
*then* - I should get 1 for the answer because two halves make one whole. (prediction)  
*Because* - I get  $\frac{2}{4}$  when I do the problem that way (what really happens)  
*therefore* - that's not the rule and I have to try something else. (conclusion)

Without the testing step, no learning occurs. That's why hands-on instruction is so important. Ideas can be generated, tested, and accepted or rejected immediately. Reading the chapter and answering the questions involves little of this kind of thinking—especially when the feedback comes next week when the assignment is handed back.

Intellectual development can stall at any age if there is not practice making and testing more complex hypotheses. Learners need feedback to know if their thinking is correct and they need to practice this kind of thinking so they get better at it. As teachers, our goal should be to help learners internalize the process of the Predictive Statement (If, and, then, Because, therefore) as well as learn the content. Only then are we helping to develop life-long learners.

That's why the poster is in the kit and that's why you should use it. It is considered consumable so you can keep it up and use it throughout the day in any kind of lesson.

