

Seven Ways to Practice Synthetic and Analytic Thinking Skills

Caregivers and educators can use these synthetic and analytic thinking skills practice activities to support students' literacy development. When students engage synthetic analytic skills and analytic thinking skills, they activate areas in the brain associated with the four language skill areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Thus, these activities strengthen neural pathways associated with literacy proficiency and help equip students to grow into competent communicators. For more information on the benefits of synthetic and analytic practice, see our blog post [“Read It, Say It, Hear It, Write It: Instructional Routines That Engage the Four Language Skill Areas,”](#) by Meg Mechelke.

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Synthetic Skills:

Encoding/spelling; write down what you hear

Analytic skills:

Decoding/reading: read text out loud

Help a younger sibling write a letter; they dictate, you write



Synthetic: Listening & Spelling

Read a storybook out loud to your family



Analytic: Reading & Speaking

Read a book and summarize it at dinner



Analytic: Reading & Speaking

Write out the lyrics to your favorite song



Synthetic: Listening & Spelling

Find and perform a reader's theatre script



Analytic: Reading & Speaking

Take a trip in the car and read all the road signs you see



Analytic: Reading & Speaking

Listen to an audiobook and write a response



Synthetic: Listening & Spelling