



Why does question asking drop off so significantly?

Consider the profile of the young child's brain and question asking....

- THEY ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS!!! According to Harvard Child Psychologist,
A child between 2-5, on average, asks

40,000 questions

Factual

Explanations

- The synapses, or connections, amount to a QUADRILLION
- About 3 X the number of synapses found in an adult brain.
- The first “dip” in question asking occurs when a child starts pre-school, despite ideal qualities such as stimulating environment, access to question-answerer (teacher) and nurturing environment



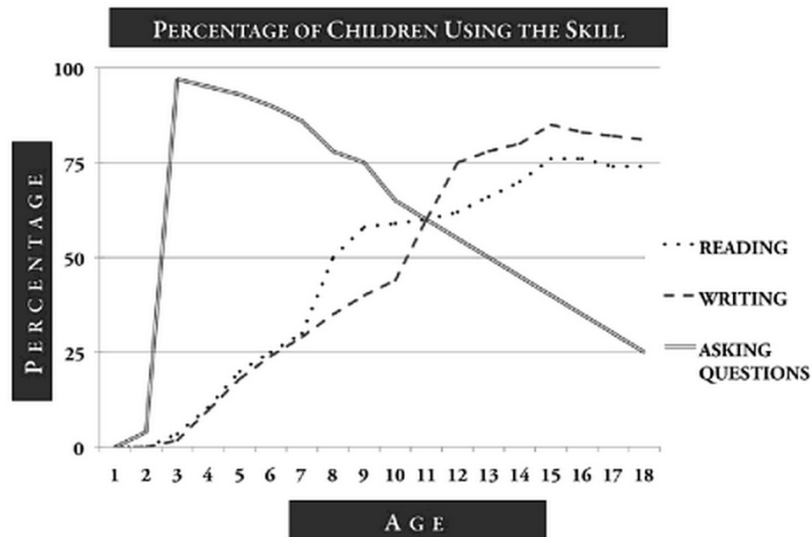


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THE GOOD NEWS IS (for us educators – it is not our fault!!!)

- Synapses begin to taper around age 5, a natural pruning process occurs
- A child has made many categorizations already, synapses slow, will make connections as environment needs or dictates

THE BAD NEWS IS The state of question asking in schools still shows decline during school aged years. Many feel we are failing at encouraging student driven inquiry



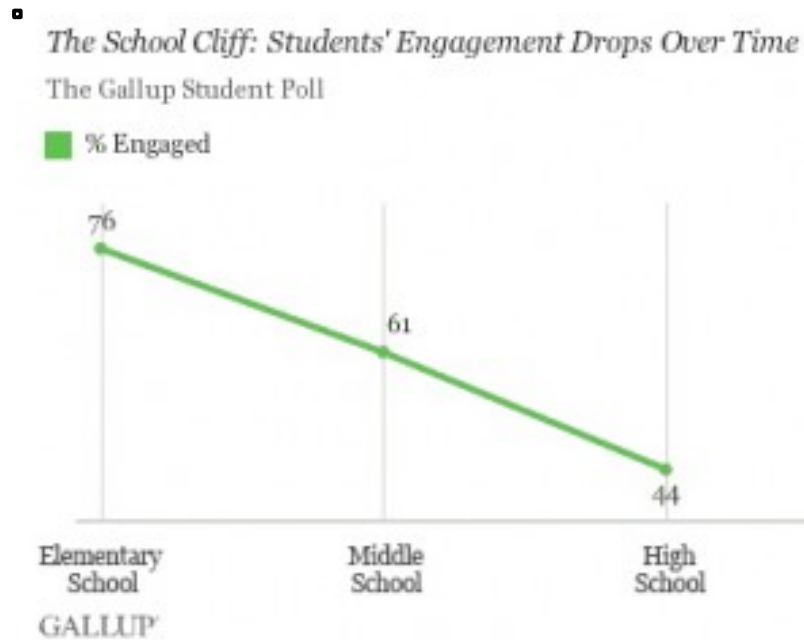
Data taken from the 2009 Nations Report Card





Why does question asking drop off so significantly?

According to Gallup poll conducted in 2013, engagement steadily declines from Elementary School through High School



“Does the Student Cliff matter more than the Fiscal Cliff?” - Daniel Pink in 2013



Why does a student “cliff” matter?

The nature of our workforce has changed and there is greater demand for thinkers and problem solvers who can ask the right questions.



- Feedback from employers
- Silicon Valley’s “Montessori Mafia”
- The ability to memorize and repeat back facts does not hold same value as in the past



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



“What are schools for?”

“Can we teach ourselves to question?”



“Is a test-driven education the most likely path for producing an inventive and feisty citizenry?” – Deborah Meier

Q Focus:

Questions are important for self-advocacy purposes.

- **Ask as many questions as you can**
- **Do not stop to discuss, judge or answer the questions**
- **Write down every question exactly as it is stated**
- **Change any statement into a question**