



# Helping Your Child Use C.E.R. at Home: A Friendly Parent's Guide

Discover simple strategies to support your child's critical thinking and writing skills using the C.E.R. method—Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning.

# What is C.E.R.?

C.E.R. stands for **Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning**. It's a simple yet powerful framework that helps kids explain their answers clearly and logically.

This method isn't just for science class—it works beautifully for reading comprehension, everyday questions, and building strong communication skills.



# The Three Parts of C.E.R.



## Claim

The main point or answer to a question, expressed in one clear sentence.



## Evidence

Facts, data, observations, or examples from the text or experience that support the claim.



## Reasoning

The explanation of *why* or *how* the evidence supports the claim—connecting the dots.



# Why Use C.E.R.?

## **Builds Critical Thinking**

Helps kids organize their thoughts and think more deeply about questions and problems.

## **Increases Confidence**

Children gain confidence in explaining their ideas clearly and persuasively to others.

## **Prepares for Success**

Strengthens skills needed for schoolwork, standardized tests, and real-world communication.

## **Encourages Curiosity**

Promotes deeper understanding and a natural love of learning through thoughtful questioning.





# Story Time: Mia and the Mystery of the Missing Lunch

Mia brought her lunch in a brown paper bag. After eating her sandwich and apple, she crumpled up the bag. Her friend Josh walked over and said, "Hey, the bag still has something inside!"

Mia looked puzzled. "What do you mean? I ate everything!"

They both wondered: Is the bag really empty?





# Writing Prompt for Your Child

## Question to Answer:

Is the brown paper bag really empty after lunch? Use C.E.R. to explain your answer.

01

### Write Your Claim

What do you think? Is the bag empty or not?

02

### Provide Evidence

What facts or observations support your claim?

03

### Explain Your Reasoning

Why does your evidence prove your claim? Connect the dots!



# Example C.E.R. Response to the Prompt

## Claim

The brown paper bag is **not completely empty** after lunch.

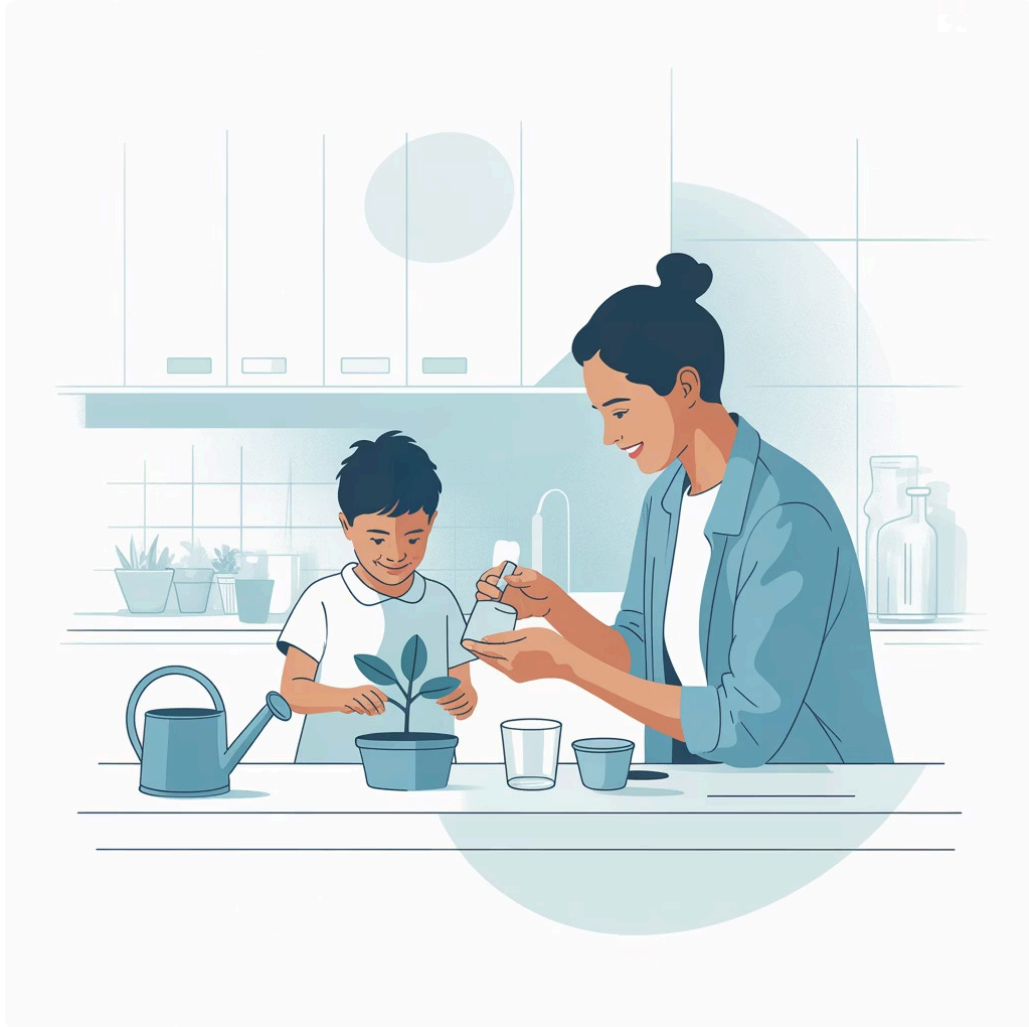
## Evidence

The bag still contains air inside, which you can feel if you squeeze it gently. The bag puffs up slightly when pressed.

## Reasoning

Air is matter that takes up space, even though we can't see it. Since the bag contains air, it isn't truly empty—it's filled with invisible air molecules.

# How You Can Help at Home



- Ask questions that require explanations, not just yes or no answers
- Encourage your child to state their claim first before diving into details
- Help them identify facts, observations, or examples as evidence
- Guide them to explain *why* the evidence supports their claim
- Use everyday situations like stories, science experiments, or observations from nature
- Make it fun and conversational—learning happens best when relaxed!





## CLAIM

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## EVIDENCE

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## REASONING

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# Tips for Success



## Use Simple Language

Choose examples and words your child already understands. Build from their current knowledge.



## Praise the Effort

Celebrate their thinking process and hard work, not just getting the "right" answer.



## Practice Regularly

Use fun, relatable topics like pets, weather patterns, favorite books, or family activities.



## Use Visual Tools

Try graphic organizers or drawing to help plan and organize their C.E.R. responses.



# You're Helping Your Child Become a Confident Thinker!

## A Powerful Tool

C.E.R. strengthens learning and communication skills across all subjects.

## Your Support Matters

With your encouragement, your child will grow in curiosity, clarity, and confidence.

## Keep Practicing

Regular practice makes these skills second nature. Watch their confidence soar!

**You've got this!** Every conversation, every question, every moment of curiosity is building your child's future success. Keep up the amazing work!