



Discovering Science

Young children often ask the question “why?” Curiosity is a natural emotion and when children ask questions they are trying to learn more about the world around them. As your child’s first teacher, it is important to talk with your child about her questions. Do not give your child the answer. Help discover the answer by asking her questions about what she sees and observes.

INFANT:

- Give your child a toy with different sounds and features. Before playing with the toy get your child excited about the toy by saying, “Ready, set, go!” Then after playing with the toy, say to your child, “I wonder what will happen next.”

TODDLER:

- Take a walk around your neighborhood. Ask your child questions about what she sees. For example:
 - What's on each side of this leaf?
 - How is the leaf on the ground different from the one on the tree?
 - Are all the petals on this flower the same size and color?
 - Are these snowflakes exactly alike? How are they different?
 - How many legs does this bug have?
 - How many colors can you see in this mud puddle?

PRESCHOOLERS:

- Play a junior version of “Twenty Questions” with your child. Think of a person, place or thing and have him ask you “yes” or “no” questions to discover what it is. “I’m thinking of something we ate for lunch today.” Your child might ask, “Is it round?” “Is it red?” “Is it crunchy?” Reverse the roles so she answers the questions.
- Suggest ways to look for answers (books from the library, a librarian, the Internet, an experiment). “I wonder about the stars at night, too. Let's try to find more about it.”

Book Suggestions: *What is science?* Rebecca Kai Dotlich, Henry Holt, 2006

I Fall Down. Vicki Cobb. HarperCollins, 2004