

HELLO PARENTS,

Curiosity is the desire to learn, explore, and discover. Children are naturally curious, as they investigate and make connections within their environments. As your child grows, they will begin to question and inquire about all aspects of life. Your child's emerging interests will often motivate them to seek out experiences, and absorb new information. In this newsletter, you will be provided with activities which will nurture your child's curiosity as they question and learn about their world.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

WHAT IS THAT TOY?

MATERIALS:

- Variety of your infant's toys
- Your infant's blanket

DIRECTIONS:

- Put the blanket on the floor, and lay your infant on it.
- Arrange your infant's toys around them, just far enough so they can stretch their fingers and grasp them.
- Watch as your infant looks at each toy with curiosity.
- Every time your infant holds a toy, comment on it. For example, "Oh, look at this pink monkey! If you press this button it makes a sound!"

[Click here](#) for activities that explore your infants' senses.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL

MATERIALS:

- Several mirrors, various shapes and sizes

DIRECTIONS:

- Gather a variety of different sized mirrors.
- Place the mirrors on the floor, or on a table.
- Have your child sit near the mirrors.
- Encourage your child by commenting on what you see in the mirror. For example: "Look at yourself in the mirror! "Here is your nose! I have a nose too!"
- You may look at other mirrors, and make observations of your environment. For example, you may say: "I see the reflection of the table in the mirror!"
- Continue to use the mirrors to observe your child's surroundings.

[Click here](#) for ideas of open-ended materials, for your child to play with.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

FROZEN SHAVING CREAM SENSORY PLAY

MATERIALS:

- Container
- Foam shaving cream
- Plastic toys
- Food colouring (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child fill the container with shaving cream.
- If you have food colouring, ask your child what colour they prefer and add a few drops to the shaving cream.
- Stir the food colouring with the shaving cream.
- Ask your child to choose a few small toys and add them to the shaving cream.
- Place the container inside the freezer until frozen.
- Throughout the activity, encourage your child to ask questions, and wonder. For example, "How long do you think the shaving cream will take to become frozen?" or "Once we take it out of the freezer, what can we do to make it melt faster?"
- After the shaving cream is frozen, remove it from the freezer. Observe with your child the changes of state, as the shaving cream changes from solid to liquid and the toys are revealed!

[Click here](#) to paint with frozen colourful cubes.



JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

THE LITTLE INQUIRY BAG

MATERIALS:

- Magnifying glass
- Camera
- Pencil
- Paper
- Tote bag or backpack

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill your bag with exploring materials. For example: a magnifying glass, a camera, a pencil, and paper.
- Go for a walk around the neighbourhood, or at the park.
- Whenever something catches your child's attention, you can be ready with a tool to help investigate further. For example, if your child sees a flower or an insect, you can reply with: "That is an interesting bug! Let's use our magnifying glass to look at it some more!"
- You may collect a few interesting items such as rocks, leaves, sticks etc.
- Continue to encourage your child to make observations, look closely at details, and learn about their environment.

[Click here](#) for a nature-colour scavenger hunt activity.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

CURIOSITY CUBES

MATERIALS:

- Large transparent Tupperware container
- Pencil
- Paper
- Coloured pencils

DIRECTIONS:

- Write down topics that you are interested in learning about, and researching. For example: animals, insects, planets, etc.
- Select one topic and write questions you would like to know about it. You may include: who, what, where, when, and why in your questions.
- Begin researching your topic. Write down the many interesting facts that you find.
- You may also draw or print pictures concerning your topic.
- Once you have gathered all your information and pictures, place them inside your large Tupperware container. This will be your curiosity cube.
- Create an interesting display in your transparent cube. For example, if you research the universe, you could include models of the planets etc.
- Look around your house. Do you have any toys or materials that concern your topic? If you do, you may add them to your curiosity cube.
- Make a title for your curiosity cube. For example, if your topic was about the moon, you may write: "Exploring the Moon".
- After you have finished filling your curiosity cube, present it to your family members or friends.

[Click here](#) for inquiry-based learning activities.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- **Answer your child's questions.** Your child may have many questions about their world. Answer them simply and clearly to help develop their curiosity and thinking.
- **Model interest in the world around you.** Take a walk outside and wonder aloud about the many sites that you see.
- **Encourage your child's natural interests by talking about them together.** You may observe skills that your child is trying to master, and create ways for them to further explore these interests.
- **Go to the library!** Books are windows into all kinds of worlds to delight the curious mind.