NEW CANADIANS' CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE INC.
"Home to the World"

VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #169

CAUSE AND EFFECT

HELLO PARENTS,

Everything happens for a reason: for every cause, there is an effect. When we consider cause and effect, the cause explains why something happens, and the effect is the description of what has happened. Children begin to develop cause and effect thinking as early as eight months of age. Cause and effect, or causality helps children to observe their world, and make meaningful connections about why things happen. Children begin to learn that their own actions have effects. Identifying the effects of actions can encourage children to make inferences and predictions about what may happen in the future. In this newsletter, you will be provided with enriching activities that develop your child's understanding of cause and effect.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

INDOOR LIGHT SHOW

DIRECTIONS:

- Carry your infant from room to room in your home, and pause when you reach a light switch.
- Show your infant how the lights turn on when you flip the switch one way, and off when you flip it in the opposite direction.
- While walking around the house, stop at table lamps and show your infant how the lights turn on and off.
- Make sure you are narrating your journey around the house. For example: "We are in the living room right now. Lights turn on, and off!"

Click here to listen to "Red Light, Green Light".

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

WHISK AWAY BUBBLES

MATERIALS:

- Whisk
- Large bowl
- Dish soap
- Jug of water
- Optional: food colouring

DIRECTIONS:

- Place the large bowl, whisk, and dish soap in front of your child.
- Hand the jug of water to your child, and assist them as they fill the bowl with it.
- Have your child squirt some dish soap inside the bowl of water.
- Optional: if you have food colouring, you may add it to the water.
- Give your child the whisk, and encourage them to stir the soap and water together.
- As your child stirs, watch as the bubbles begin to appear on the surface.
- Talk to your child about how their actions are causing the bubbles to form. For example, say: "Look, there are bubbles now after whisking the water and soap together!"

Click here to read "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Joffe Numeroff.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

FLOATING BALL

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Medium sized bowl
- Scissors
- Tape
- Coloured pencils
- Straw
- Aluminum foil

DIRECTIONS:

- Place the bowl upside down on the construction paper. Help your child to trace the bowl's shape on the construction paper, making a circle.
- Use scissors to cut the circle out. You may assist your child with this process.
- Cut the circular paper in half, to the centre. This will create two ends in the paper.
- Pull and twist the two ends together, to form a cone shape. Secure cone shape by taping the ends.
- Use coloured pencils to decorate the cone shape.
- Make a small cut at the point of the cone.
- Put one end of the straw into the point of the cone. Tape the straw, to keep it in place.
- Make a small ball out of aluminum foil. Place this ball into the cone.
- Blow into the straw. Notice that the ball will begin to float.
- Discuss cause and effect with your child. You may say: "Look! The ball is floating because you are blowing into the straw!" or "The harder you blow in the straw, the higher the ball floats!"

Click here to read "There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly" by Lucille Colandro.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Read books and sing songs about cause and effect to your child.
- Show your child concrete examples of cause and effect. For example: bouncing a ball, planting a garden etc.
- Talk to your child in terms of cause and effect. For example: "You are cold because you are not wearing your jacket" or "The popsicle melted because it was outside in the hot sun."

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JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

FORCE AND PRESSURE EXPERIMENT

MATERIALS:

- 2 kitchen sponges
- Straw
- Ziploc bag
- Small sized objects that are light and heavy. For example, pom-poms, toy cars, etc.
- Tape

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child place the two kitchen sponges, one on top of the other, inside the Ziploc bag.
- Place the drinking straw between the two sponges, so that one end of the straw is inside the bag and the other end is outside the bag.
- Close the Ziploc bag, and then seal it with tape.
- Blow into the straw to inflate the bag.
- Discuss the light and heavy objects with your child. Make predictions with your child about what will happen to each of the objects, when you put them in front of the straw. Will they fly away, or not?
- Start by placing the light objects such as the pom-poms, in front of the straw.
- Press down on the sponges and watch the pom-pom roll away!
- Experiment with the other objects, and see if the inflated Ziploc bag will make them roll away, too.

Click here to learn more about cause and effect.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

FLIP BOOK

MATERIALS:

- Sticky note bundle
- Writing materials

DIRECTIONS:

- Choose a cause and effect scenario, which you have observed in your own life. For example: on a hot day, ice cream melts in the sun; after a rainstorm, a rainbow appears in the sky etc.
- Begin to create your flip book! On the last page of the sticky note bundle, draw a scenario.
- Redraw the scenario on the second last page of the sticky note bundle, with a slight variation.
- Continue to work your way forward in the book, and slightly change the drawings as the pages progress. For example: illustrate that an ice cream cone is slowly melting.
- Once the cause and effect scenario has been completely drawn, you may colour your drawings with coloured pencils or markers.
- Now, watch your illustrations move! Begin to flip the pages of the sticky note bundle, starting from the back. Notice that as you flip the pages, the images appear to move. This is cause and effect, in action!

Click here to play "Cause and Effect" Jeopardy online game.