

Parent strategies: Unlock your child's curiosity about the world by asking questions and teaching big words.

WHAT

Ask Instead of Telling



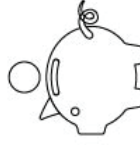
When you ask **inquiry questions**, you encourage your child to become a curious thinker. Inquiry questions include words like **why, how, when, what, if?** When your child asks about something, say "That's a great question. Let's find out more together," so you avoid giving all the facts until your child has time to answer.

WHY

- When your child wonders **how something works** say, "Good question! What do you think?"
- Pay attention to **what interests your child** during play and ask, "What do you notice...?" or "How did you do that?"
- Observe **animals and insects** and ask your child. "Why do you think it did ...?"
- Encourage your child to notice **details outdoors or in the kitchen** with questions like "What does it look/smell/feel/sound/taste like?"

WHAT

Teach Big Words

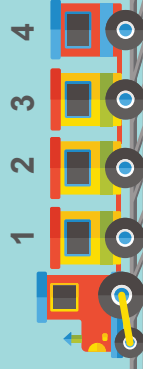


Children in early childhood are not too young to learn and **understand big words**. Don't be afraid to use science and math words with your child. Teach your child new words with a **simple explanation** and by using them over and over. This fills your child's **word bank** and helps him or her learn the power of words.

WHY

- Children can learn big words when you **explain in simple terms**. For example, say: "When we collect data, we just write down or draw what happened."
- Don't be afraid to use **technical words** - kids can learn them with repetition. Try saying "investigate" instead of "play."
- **Pretend you are a scientist** and use the word "experiment" as you cook something new or differently in the kitchen.

HOW



In Your Community

Children's Museum

- **FlowWorks:** dive into the forces and properties of water through waves, vortices and rapids, exploring the fascinating concept of hydropower!
- **Cyberchase:** throughout the exhibit's adventurous plots, children will not only "do" math but will be able to experience it firsthand through interactive concepts involving place value, algebra, geometry, fractions and probability.

Library

- *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Walsh
- *Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!* by Bob Barner
- *Magnets Pull, Magnets Push* by David A. Adler
- *Smell - El olfato* by Erdem Secmen

Park

- Go on a nature walk and ask questions about what you see: "How does a bird build its nest?"
- Use big words to label animals and objects at the park, for instance: insect, watertower, fertilizer, or tireswing.
- Ask your child: "What do you notice about ____?" when playing in the sand or grass together.

At Home

CLI Engage Activity Collection

<https://cliengagefamily.org>



Bug Photo Hunt

Walk around a park, your neighborhood, or your backyard, talking about and taking pictures of bugs you find.



Sensory Popcorn

Practice using and talking about all five senses (i.e., seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching) through an observation of popcorn.

