

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.

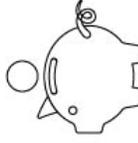
## WHY

- 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?"

## HOW

## 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.

