



CULTIVATING CURIOSITY IN CHILDREN

Childrens' own natural curiosity and imagination lead to valuable learning experiences. By creating an environment in which they can safely explore their interests and ideas, children develop critical thinking skills and a love of learning. The following principles can help cultivate curiosity in children:

1. Children form an understanding of themselves and their place in the world through their interactions with other children and adults. Focus on developing their social skills by encouraging children to work in groups where each child is an equal participant.
2. Encourage children to use their words as they discuss their experiences. Listen with respect, and recognize that their questions and observations provide an opportunity for learning and discovery.
3. Children are inspired by the environment around them. Provide natural lighting, ample space to learn in and materials that encourage curiosity and creativity.

An adult's role is to mentor and guide children, listen to their thoughts and ideas, find what interests them and then provide them with opportunities to explore these interests further. Projects aren't planned; they emerge based on a child's interests.

Encourage experimentation and celebrate both successes and failures, helping children to embrace trying again. Let them create from their imagination and learn from the process!



Excerpted from Cultivating Curiosity in Children, by Kelly Harlow and Cornelia Stevens, Kansas Child, Summer 2017