

## **Authentic Inquiry for Active Learning**

Children are naturally curious and as parents and teachers we should capitalize on this curiosity to instill the quality of active learning. Children love to make connections to their world and seek answers to their questions. Encouraging your child to be an active learner, posing their own questions, and following through on finding the answers rather than passively receiving information creates greater student engagement, higher level thinking and in turn, higher levels of achievement.

Instead of answering a question for your child with a yes or no, say “Let’s find out.” Encourage questioning because it leads to natural inquiry. Show your child how to figure out answers to his/her questions by reading about the topic, experimenting, looking up information and researching or even interviewing others. It is very satisfying to find answers to your questions and children are naturally reinforced when they question and seek information. It will empower them to be active learners at home, in school, and in life.

Here are a few tips to encourage questioning and inquiry...

1. Ask about what your child is learning in class.
2. Support and encourage interest and curiosity by following up with activities at home.
3. Encourage and practice good communication skills such as starting conversations and debates about current events.
4. Help your children develop research skills online and from text.
5. Read!
6. Encourage your child to take notes or keep a learning journal.
7. Have your child write, draw or make something related to his/her learning.
8. Enjoy projects together in the home.

Remember that authentic inquiry or questioning leads to engagement in learning. So spend some time indulging your child’s natural curiosity; it will teach him/her how to think, learn, and solve problems through investigation and research.