



Nurturing Curiosity Through Investigation

Curiosity is nurtured through the everyday choices you make as an educator.

Take a moment to reflect on your current practice. There are no right or wrong answers. This toolkit is an opportunity to pause, notice what is already working well and identify where you might create more opportunities for children to wonder, investigate and explore.



How to use this toolkit:

For each statement, consider where your current practice sits:

Beginning

"This is something I am beginning to consider."

Developing

"I do this sometimes, but it is not yet consistent."

Embedded

"This is a consistent part of my everyday practice."

You might also use the space provided to record examples, questions or ideas for future practice.

1. Our Interactions

The questions you ask, the time you allow and the way you respond to children's ideas can either extend or limit their curiosity. Reflect on your practice:

Reflection Question	Beginning	Developing	Embedded	My Reflections / Examples
How often do I respond to children's questions with another question rather than providing an immediate answer?	☐	☐	☐	
Do I make time to genuinely wonder alongside children?	☐	☐	☐	
How do I encourage children to explain their thinking, ideas and theories?	☐	☐	☐	
Do my interactions communicate that children's questions are valued?	☐	☐	☐	

Try reflecting on: A recent moment when a child asked you a question.

What did you say?



How could you have extended the investigation further?



2. Our Environment

The environment can invite children to investigate long before an educator asks a question.

Reflect on your environment:

Reflection Question	Beginning	Developing	Embedded	My Reflections / Examples
Does our environment invite children to investigate, explore and problem-solve?	☐	☐	☐	
Are there open-ended resources that encourage curiosity and exploration?	☐	☐	☐	
Do we provide tools such as magnifying glasses, clipboards, loose parts and books to support investigations?	☐	☐	☐	
Are children's current interests reflected within our learning environment?	☐	☐	☐	

Look around your environment.

What are currently inviting children to wonder, explore or investigate?

What could you add, change or make more accessible?

Investigation Invitation

Choose one area of your environment and consider: *I wonder what would happen if we...*





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3. Our Pedagogy

Curiosity-based pedagogy requires you to remain open to the unexpected. Sometimes the most meaningful investigations are not planned in advance. They emerge from a question, a discovery, an unexpected event or an interest that captures children's attention. Reflect on your pedagogy:

Reflection Question	Beginning	Developing	Embedded	My Reflections / Examples
Am I leading children's learning, or am I following their curiosity?	☐	☐	☐	
Do I see unexpected moments as interruptions or opportunities for investigation?	☐	☐	☐	
How comfortable am I with saying, "I'm not sure... let's find out together"?	☐	☐	☐	
Do I celebrate the process of investigating, not just the final answer?	☐	☐	☐	



Consider this scenario:
A child asks: "Why do snails have shells?"

What did you say? _____
What questions could you ask to extend the child's thinking? _____
What resources or experiences could support the investigation? _____

From Reflection to Action

Reflection becomes meaningful when it leads to intentional action. Based on your reflections, identify one area you would like to strengthen.

My Focus Area

- ☐ Our interactions
- ☐ Our environment
- ☐ Our pedagogy

One change I would like to make.

What will this look like in practice?

How will I know this is making a difference?

I might notice:

My Curiosity Commitment

Over the next few weeks, I will intentionally:

Ask more:

Notice more:

Make time for:

Investigate:

My commitment:

"I will create more opportunities for children to..."

Final Reflection

Curiosity does not require you to have all the answers. It asks you to remain open, interested and willing to explore alongside children.

As you reflect on your practice, consider:

What is one question I can ask myself more often as an educator?

"I wonder..."

