

Talk About It

Primary Objectives

11d. Shows curiosity and motivation

Why It's Important

Young children learn best when they are provided with the opportunity to explore and discuss their own interests. Leading your child in a conversation about an object that interests him will encourage him to ask questions and find out more about it.

Materials

Paper; markers, pens, pencils, or other writing tools; objects that your child will find interesting

What You Do

1. Pay attention to the materials your child enjoys using most. Once you have determined what his interests are, find a special place to put a new object that interests him enough to talk about it each day. It may be something you have talked or read about, or something unusual you found outside. Use whatever objects you think will spark your child's curiosity.
2. Invite your child to explore the object with you. Encourage him to use his senses to discover and describe the characteristics of the object. *What does that pinecone feel like? What does that watermelon taste like?*
3. Wonder aloud about the object: what it might be used for, what it sounds like, where it comes from, etc. *Shells come from the ocean. I've seen pinecones like this at the park.*
4. Encourage your child to ask and answer questions about the object as well. *I wonder where these acorns come from. What do you think is inside this avocado? What kinds of things would you like to know about this camera?*
5. Write down any questions that you and your child want to research. Together, you can find the answers and talk about what you learned.