

Thinking Skills

To further develop our thinking strategies when doing inquiry into different subject areas, we need to practice on a regular basis. This can be done in a fun and approachable way in which students want to participate and challenge themselves. We are including some activities in this section, which you can use again and again, as you all enjoy "bettering your brain power" while having a good time in the process. Compare your notes after each activity and discuss your answers as well as the reasons for your answers and see just how much you learn too.

In two minutes name things:

- With corners
- That are blue
- With handles
- With lids
- That stick
- That are heavy



Give reasons why:

- The sky is red
- All clocks have stopped
- Tourists are flocking to the desert
- String has sold out in all the shops
- An elephant is in the classroom



Explain ten things that:

- Ants know about humans
- Cats know about dogs
- Dolphins sing about
- Telephones hear
- Pencils might tell you



In two minutes using the alphabet a-z list two of each for each letter:

- Animals that can still be found
- Famous people
- Cartoon and comic characters
- Electrical appliances we use
- Things that are bigger than you



What does inquiry look like?



Inquiry, in the broadest sense, is the PROCESS initiated by the students, or the teachers and adults, that moves the students from their current level of understanding to a new and deeper level of understanding.

This can include:

- Exploring, wondering and questioning
- Experimenting and playing with possibilities
- Making connections between previous learning and current learning
- Making predictions
- Collecting data and reporting findings
- Reassessing perceptions of event
- Making and testing theories
- Researching and seeking information
- Taking and defending a position
- Solving problems in a variety of ways



The challenge is for us to provide the opportunities for this to happen in a formal and informal manner. Consider ways at home where these kinds of opportunities can occur—even if they are not directly linked to the current unit being inquired into at school.

It is the skills and understandings that we want to develop for children to gain a "bigger understanding" of the world around them. The best part of working with the students in this, is how much WE learn too!!

Give it a go !!