



## Lower School Update

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As we approach the halfway point in the school year, we should take the time to enjoy the growth that your child has experienced. Our program has engaged our children even through the challenges of a pandemic. Children learn so much by being exposed to skills and concepts presented by great teachers who want them to excel. How can you support those skills that have been developed?

The first and most important step is to feed a young child's curiosity. Young kids have questions about everything. It can be exhausting, but this curiosity is essential to their intellectual growth and development. We often think that because they have skills, our work is done, but those skills are essential to unlocking the answers to the questions they have.

Do you have to do all the work and get the answers to their questions? Simply, no, you can fuel their curiosity by answering their question with a better question. If you think all questions are equal, then please consider just using the questions that begin with how or why when talking to your child. It is a small change and they will roll their eyes or say hey that's not the way this conversation usually goes, but the results are so much fun.

When you ask a why or how question, you are asking them to think critically about the topic. Now be ready for the ever-popular retort, "I don't know," which you can counter with, "How can we find out?" Many kids will then play the "I don't care" card, but hang in there and smile and say, "Why don't you care?" Yes, the game could go on this way forever but most children respect the effort and will give the question a go. Now, here is where you need to do your part—don't correct or add information, just listen. Who is going to develop a curious nature if you are going to tell them the answer or correct their idea?

But what if they are wrong? Curiosity thrives on wrong answers that you believe are true but after some thinking you revise your answer, which leads to new questions. When a child has to answer more how and why questions, they develop a sense that they can always use how and why to entertain themselves by learning something new.

So, to be a good parent, I need to ask how and why questions? First of all, why wouldn't you think you are a good parent? How do we measure parent goodness? Smile and exhale in 2021, try a steady diet of how and why questions for those you love or wish to know better. Thankfully, kids who are exposed to lots of questions rarely stop asking them. If they practice the how and why variety, then their education will be a lifelong source of enjoyment.

Thank you for choosing our school and letting us work with your most precious resource. Welcome back and happy New Year.