SENSE OF WONDER AND CURIOSITY

What It Means

Children with a sense of wonder and curiosity are interested in the world around them. They are not afraid to ask questions on why things happen and how things work. They like to explore and discover new things.

Why It Is Important

Children are naturally curious about the world they live in and it is necessary to nurture and sustain this disposition. Having a sense of wonder and curiosity creates an interest and excitement in learning and encourages exploration.

How It Is Nurtured

a) *Designing meaningful learning experiences*

Teachers can nurture this disposition by providing opportunities for children to:

- develop their observational skills by encouraging them to look out for interesting things and the changes occurring in their immediate environment
- express their wonderment about the world by encouraging them to talk about interesting things they see around them
- explore and ask questions about things that interest them
- experiment with open-ended materials
- examine new objects and environment
- investigate to find the outcomes of their predictions

b) *Modelling through appropriate behaviour and language*

Teachers can encourage this disposition by:

- showing interest in the world around them
- using language such as “I wonder where/how/why...” when thinking aloud
• asking children open-ended questions such as “Why/How is this so?”, “What would happen if…?” and “What do you think?”
• valuing children’s questions
• answering children’s questions simply and patiently
• letting children know that it is alright not to have all the answers to their questions

What It Looks Like

Children with a sense of wonder and curiosity may exhibit the following behaviours:
• They point out things and changes occurring in the environment.
• They ask questions about why things happen and how things work.
• They are willing to explore and examine a topic to find out more about it.