



## Create children with an imaginative and curious mind.

This is a series I am starting to help young parents create children with an imaginative and curious mind. Why? Because all educationalists world over believe that the incubator, the cradle of such a mind is in the home.

In homes where children are not encouraged to ask questions or investigate, blind obedience and a closed mindset is bred.

So, let's have some practical suggestions for parents with children from year 3 upto year 8.  
And let us begin in the UAE.

A family visit to the local beach, or any beach just before high tide. The timings for high and low tide are given in newspapers or can be found on Google daily.

Let it be fun! Chai, coffee, Pepsi pizza, whatever, and perhaps a ball.

You arrive at the beach when the drama is about to begin. Sit down a bit away from the receding low tide and talk about the day and with that about what the child feels, sitting there.

The sounds of other families, chattering- does she like it or not and why?

The colour of the sea and a question why it is that colour Do not answer, let the child wonder.

When you fill a glass with this water, what colour is it? Why? No answer, just wonder-plant the seed of curiosity.

All of you observe the sea and comment about what you see, encouraging children to voice their experience too. In their mother tongue because this is not a language class.

The waves get bigger and bigger and encroach more and more onto the beach. Perhaps they come right upto where you are sitting, and you move back.

Wonder why the waves are getting bigger!

Ask if the sound of the sea has changed too.

Where is the foam coming from?

Comment on the sound of the waves, the increasing foam.

Do not give answers, let them think and be curious and be aware. In their own time, perhaps in later classes they will find the answers.

Ask them why this is happening. Do not educate them with explanations. Agree to what they say but pretend that you would be happy if they googled the reason.

Each receding high tide leaves stuff behind. Let them rush in to see what the tide had brought in and if there are shells or interesting pebbles or anything, wonder at what they have

found, a bit of seaweed, some beechwood, a tiny crab, anything. It is your Job to keep the enthusiasm high.

Comment on the noises of traffic, birds, the mosque prayer. If it is evening ask if they think the sounds of the Azaan is different now then the morning one. Can they hear the hoot of a ship from the port. Point out the port if you can see it. The wind or any other thing you notice.

DO NOT TEACH! LET THEM LEARN FROM WHAT THEY EXPERIENCE!

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS AND LET THEM FIND THE ANSWERS!

This outing is. NOT to enhance knowledge but to learn to EXPERIENCE and BE CURIOUS.

Try it. I speak from experience. I took my grandchildren to the beach, and we talked about what it felt like to have wet sand between the toes and sea water twirling around your ankles.

Most importantly, let children observe and wonder.

Unfortunately, I did not know how to use nature for my sons.! If you do go out on this trip in thirty days, do share your experience with us in 50 words.

Awaiting your response via the portal.