



WSU Tri-Cities College of Education is committed to quality learning during this time of uncertainty and new circumstances. “Teaching Tips” is a quick resource for families in their role as educators to their homebound children.

“Asking Questions” by John Mancinelli

Suggested age level: Any

Over the past four weeks, our household established new routines where I work and take breaks being “teacher” to my youngest son. During this time, we do some activity like a walk or yard work while we talk about his assignments. During our talks, it was clear that my son was less eager to hear what I thought as much as he wanted to share his thoughts. This reminds me how important the art of questioning is to learning.

Posing questions to my son, requiring him to search for an answer, is a powerful learning tool. Through questioning, I not only learn about my son’s preferences and dreams but also how he sees the world. During our conversations, I follow a “what” question with another question, “why?” Later, sometimes a lot later, he returns with his answer eager to hear of my response.

The big idea of “ask, don’t tell” reminds me, every day, to ask questions about my son’s thinking. Not to judge or correct, but to follow up with more questions. This strategy creates a sense of curiosity in my son.

I ask you, “What questions might you ask your child?”

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