



# Keep It Positive. Keep It Simple. Keep It Real.

## Un-Challenge Kick Start

### Critical Key #1: Get Curious

A great mystery about humans is that many times we confront learning opportunities with fear rather than mystery and wonder. The more we celebrate & encourage curiosity with our children, the more comfortable they become with the unknown and ways in which to "find out". Once kids understand that there is not always one right answer to every question, they become open to a life of continuous learning.

## 20 MINUTE ACTIVITY

### Wonder Wall

Wonder Walls are a great way to capture your child's interests in written form. All you need is a large piece of paper and markers, crayons or pencils.

- Spread a large piece of paper on a table or tape to a wall.
- Put a few key questions on the paper like:
  - What is something new you would like to try?
  - Who is someone you would like to learn more about?
  - What skill or sport would you like to get better at?
  - What topics are you interested in?
- Give some initial brainstorm time to get as many ideas as possible.
- Post the wonder wall in a location that kids can continue to add throughout the summer.
- If you have a small space, a wonder cube or electronic version works as well!



Brainstorm Time!

Wonder Cube



**Parent Tip:** Involving friends helps to build buy in!

## DAILY DOINGS

### Model Curiosity

Modeling the characteristics of a life long learner is vital in developing those characteristics in our children.

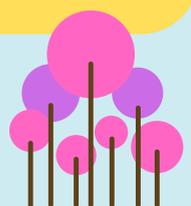
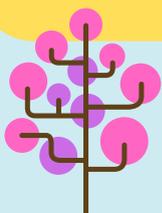
Find two times today that you say:

- "I wonder why..."
- "I'd like to learn more about..."
- "I wonder where I can find information on..."
- "I wish I knew how to..."

I'm bored!

There's nothing to do.

If you have a Wonder Wall up and running in your home, you simply refer to it when you hear this comment. It is also an opportunity to learn about interests you didn't know your child had. For example, when we launched our Wonder Wall, I didn't know that Fern wanted to learn how to make frosting. That would be an easy activity if she was "bored".





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## PRE K - 2 ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS & MODIFICATIONS

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing tell a reader about a topic of interest. Even our older kids added pictures to their comments
- With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic and respond to questions.

## 3RD - 5TH ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS & MODIFICATIONS

- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic. A Wonder Wall sets up the opportunity for casual research. For example, "let's read a book or article about your topic together" or "let's visit a museum about your topic".
- Write routinely for shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## 6TH - 8TH ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS & MODIFICATIONS

- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. "When you say you want to learn about science, what areas are you particularly interested in?"
- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

### Activity Extensions & Alternatives:

A Wonder Wall would be a great way to get kids excited about an upcoming vacation. Have your family create a portable list with all of the things they would like to learn more about while traveling.

Padlet is a free online resource that could store an electronic Wonder Wall. You simply post and add to your ideas on this online bulletin board: [www.padlet.com](http://www.padlet.com).

