

## 5.0 CURIOSITY

### Curiosity is:

- being anxious to know, learn, or explore.
- being inquisitive.
- wanting to know and learn.
- being eager to explore.
- questioning.
- thirsting for knowledge.

### It is important because:

- it leads one to discover, uncover, explore, examine, experiment with, and experience the world.
- it is the motivating factor behind gaining new knowledge and competencies throughout life.
- it helps one to understand life.
- it keeps one alert and actively thinking everyday.
- it keeps one seeking answers to mysteries and life itself.
- it keeps one humble in understanding that we cannot know everything.
- it motivates one to find better ways of doing things.

### One would exhibit it by:

- confidently exploring new materials and/or equipment.
- acting on ideas.
- designing, building, making, or inventing things.
- taking things apart or dissecting things and then reassembling them.
- questioning things.
- examining, manipulating, and exploring objects.

### NOTES:

When children are persistent with their questions, they are engaging in creative questioning, questions that arise out of their curiosity, their need to know. “What is this? How does it work? Why?” are but a few of the questions they ask continuously throughout their early years. They are naturally interested in exploring and knowing all that they can about their world. Your home is their first experience of the world. When they stop asking questions, they stop being curious. Young children may stop asking questions if they feel they are annoying others. When this happens, they no longer feel free to express their curiosity. This in turn decreases their desire for learning. Teachers and parents need to keep their children curious by intentionally putting materials into their environment with which children can explore, discover, experiment, and experience. Access to materials, the freedom to choose, and time to explore are critical to supporting children’s curiosity. **Caution: Safety and health issues should take precedence over children’s exploration in the home.**

### IDEAS FOR PARENTS:

- Let your child explore the properties of foods you cook and serve, such as fruits, vegetables, flour, oil, sugar, salt, spices, and food coloring.
- Listen for what your child wants to know and learn about. Then give your child real life experiences whenever you can to teach and show him/her first-hand.
- Let your child explore with you around your home. Show him/her how things work, what they are made of, and how to use them. Let your child watch you as you use mixers, blenders, and small appliances.
- Take your child to interesting places like the park, the zoo, or the store. Answer your child’s questions. Go places for the purpose of exploring and discovering, not shopping or buying something.
- Whenever possible, answer your child’s questions or help him/her find the answers.
- Let your child help you prepare foods for snacks or meals. Ask your child to think of combinations of fruits and vegetables to serve.
- Show your child how you do the laundry. Let your child sort the clothes, put the clothes in the washing machine, measure and place the soap in the machine, etc. Let your child do his/her laundry with you.