Kimochis®

building a school-to-home connection

HOMELINKS WEEK 24

Curious

This week, your child learned about **curiosity** and the Kimochis® *kotowaza* that accompanies this feeling: **"When curious, be safe and kind."** This saying helps children remember to follow their curiosity only after they have asked themselves, *"Is this choice safe and kind?"* We know that interested and curious children are more open to learning, and research suggests that young children are actively involved in their own learning, and that they want answers that will stretch their minds.[1] However, children need to learn to be safe and kind when they are feeling curious. **In our lessons, we learned that:**

- Something is NOT safe if you could get hurt or hurt someone else doing it.
- Something is NOT kind if we would not want someone else to do this to us.

See reverse for ways your entire family can learn from this week's lesson!

1 Fraizer, B. 2009. "Preschoolers' Search for Explanatory Information Within Adult-Child Conversation." Child Development 80(6): 1592–1611.

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Coach Curious Feelings During Daily Activities

- Guide children to catch themselves when they are being curious, but not also being safe or kind. *"Oops! Ask yourself, 'Is it safe or is it kind for me to* [name what they are about to do that is not appropriate]?' "
- Talk about the Golden Rule—treat others like you would want to be treated—and how it relates to following curiosity. Ask your child to describe how they like friends to treat them. Say, *"Some times when we feel curious, we have to follow the Golden Rule. We need to ask ourselves, 'Would my choice be something I would want other people to do?' For example, 'Would I want my sister to look in my special treasure box without asking?' "* Discuss other examples with your child and talk about the Golden Rule.
- Talk about how curiosity inspires you to be inquisitive and creative. For example, if you drive by a field and see plants that you do not recognize, you could say, *"I am so curious what is growing there. I am going to park and take a closer look as long as it's safe and kind."*

Family Fun: Playful Ways to Practice

- CURIOSITY SPARKS CREATIVITY. Use a stuffed animal or another toy that belongs to your child. Take turns thinking of various ways to play with it. Brainstorm many different ways to enjoy the toys in imaginative and creative ways.
- CURIOUS FACTS. Inspire your child to be curious to learn. Ask your child, *"What do you wish you knew more about?"* Once a week (or more if possible), spend time with your child learning more about that topic. Children in preschool love interesting animals (rhinos, snakes, octopuses, monkeys). Together, go to the library or on the Internet to discover facts about something new. Model how you follow your curious feelings by sharing what you want to know more about. Share the search with your child.
- INVENTIONS. Talk about inventors and what they invented. Go to the library or on the Internet to learn more about these people and how they were able to invent something new. For fun, use your creativity, imagination, and curious feelings to invent something at home. For example, you can invent a "shoe finder." Take a common object and call it a shoe finder. Ask your child to hide a shoe and use your new, pretend invention to find the hidden shoe!

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