



Ask a Bug a Question*

It's fun to wonder and read about real things. This activity promotes *thinking skills* and teaches children to find information. Because there is so much information available, it is important to know how to find it. This activity can start to teach kids how to *satisfy their curiosity*.

Here are some ideas:

- 1) Ask your child or children to find a bug or think about what their *favorite* bug is. Maybe it's a ladybug or a butterfly or a spider or a dragonfly or an ant or a beetle or a bumble-bee or a lightning bug. If you have a picture book with many bugs, it might help you get started. Better yet, find a live bug and capture it in a jar with a metal lid in which you can poke air holes. (If you live in an area with harmful insects, be sure to teach your child how to identify and avoid these. And if you or your children really don't like bugs, do this activity with animals.)
- 2) If you have a live bug, ask your child to watch it. *Talk about the bug together*. How many legs? Where are its eyes? How does it move? If you're looking at a picture of a bug, you can ask many of these same questions.
- 3) Then with your child think about questions you could ask the bug. Imagine having a conversation with it. For example: Where do you sleep, little bug? Who are your friends? What is your favorite food? Where is your mother? How do you find food? What are you afraid of? Encourage your children to ask any questions they want to ask. Then you can together *playfully* guess answers to those questions.
- 4) Next, start thinking about how you can get the scientific answers. You could go to the library and find a bug book. If you have a computer, you can go on the Internet. You might know someone (like an exterminator or a farmer or a teacher) who knows about bugs. You might be able to go to a children's museum or a nature park. Think of the many ways to find something out.
- 5) As time permits, see if you can actually get "real" answers. Finally, if your children want to, have them draw a picture of the bug and put the questions and answers in the **Our Adventures** section of your

WAY TO GO! FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



"I love it when kids are so curious that they go to great lengths to find something out. That's how inventors and scientists and artists are made!"

— *Grandma Anna*

*Ask a Bug supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to reading non-fiction and locating information.
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