



Wonder Walk*

This activity is easy and energizing! It helps children learn to *look closely* at the ordinary and amazing things in the world around them. The thing to do is to keep asking “I wonder” questions. It’s *fun* to hear what children say while you do this. Their answers may be surprising and unusual, and it’s okay if they don’t make total sense.

Here is one way to do it:

- 1) With a paper bag in hand, take a walk outside your house with your child. *Together* collect as many different kinds of leaves as you can, picking up only one of each kind. Ask, “What do you notice?” or “What do you see?”
(If you don’t have a lot of trees or bushes in your neighborhood, pick up different kinds of stones, or something else.)
- 2) When you get home, sort the leaves (or stones) into groups. For instance, you could put all the pointy leaves into one group and all the leaves with round edges in another group. Ask, “I *wonder why* some leaves have points and some are round?” and see what your child answers.
- 3) Then sort those leaves by some other category — like by color or size or texture or some other characteristic. Let the child *choose another way* to sort the leaves and say, “Tell me about how you sorted those.”

Ask “I wonder” questions often, such as, “I wonder how plants take water and brown earth and make colorful flowers?” We may not know all the answers to these questions, but it *encourages thinking and creativity* in children. Let your child ask you some “I wonder” questions, too, and see what answers you can make up.

Start a list of *Wonder Questions* and add to it often. Put it in the **Our Adventures** section of your **WAY TO GO!** FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



“I think it is the *ability to wonder* that leads to inventions, solutions, and the joy of making something new. Observing things and asking questions may be more important than finding answers. My kids wondered how cars worked and *taught* themselves to fix them!”

— *Grandma Anna*

**Wonder Walk* supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to listening, speaking, and describing.
Next month, go to www.familylearningjournal.com for a new Family Activity!

