

HOW TO CREATE TEACHABLE MOMENTS FOR KIDS

A teachable moment is an unplanned, or intentionally placed, learning opportunity. These can happen anywhere and at anytime. They provide parents, guardians, and teachers the chance to help children learn new concepts and deepen their understanding of previously acquired knowledge. This can also be very useful when considering the design process as students can be more informed as they develop future iterations.

Parents, guardians and teachers have learned to watch for these moments. They listen and pay close attention ready to pounce with questions or thoughtful discussion at any time. We can create these moments especially when kids are working on a project or doing their homework by asking open ended questions. More importantly we need to be ready to explain and discuss the 'why' behind the child's answer and encourage them to research and dig deeper. This 'why' is the key to creating the teachable moment to better decode the world they live in.

Sometimes these questions and discussions can lead to questions that adults can't answer and this is the golden opportunity to model how to learn instead of what to learn! When you don't have the answer it gives kids the chance to learn alongside you: "That's a great question! Let's look it up together!" This builds confidence because it's ok that we don't always have all the answers. More importantly, it gives kids the sense of pride to learn that we are all life-long-learners.

CONSTELLATION LIGHT BOX

TEACHABLE MOMENT QUESTIONS

What stories or legends do you know about the following constellations? Big Dipper, Orion, Ursa Major, Scorpius, Leo? How did the constellations get their names?

Create an artwork of stars using either black acrylic paint over wax crayons or water paints over white crayons.

What are the scientific names for the constellations? What is the relative distance to a constellation to Earth? What constellations do you see in the night sky from your location?

How can you figure out the diameter and circumference of your flashlight head?

Use a ruler to measure the diameter of your flashlight to determine how wide your constellation disc needs to be.

How can you use a piece of string to find the circumference of the flashlight?

What significance do constellations have for different cultures?

How do the signs of the zodiac relate to constellations?

Can you locate the following constellations in the night sky? Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, Perseus, Lynx, Draco, Cepheus, Cassiopeia, Camelopardalis and Auriga?

Did you know that different constellations are viewable depending on where you are located in the world?

Which constellations are visible and disappear as the seasons shift year-round?

Which constellations can be seen year-round in both hemispheres? What are the major northern hemisphere constellations? Southern hemisphere?

Do you love stars? Do you dream of seeing them up close? Did you know you can sign up to become a Junior Astronaut with the Canadian Space Agency, visit brilliantlabs.ca/aerospace for more information

