

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.

SHORTEN THE DISTANCE FROM SEED TO PLATE

TEACHABLE MOMENT QUESTIONS

Conduct research on how to grow your own fruits and vegetables.

Create a journal documenting plant growth and daily observations.

How does music affect plant growth?

Create a step-by-step guide on how to build a mini greenhouse, add your original artwork.

Draw a map of where certain crops grow best.

What do people in other countries eat?

How did our ancestors make sure they had fruits and vegetables during cold winter months?

What is the volume of the greenhouse base?

How much soil is needed to fill the base?
What height will the top of the greenhouse need to be?

What is the best design for the space available?

What is the weight of the greenhouse?

Create a graph or chart of plant growth, daily temperatures and watering cycle.

What do greenhouses look like in other parts of the world?

What types of salad greens are the healthiest?

What vegetables will you need to plant to make a salad?

What impact will growing your own produce have on your health?

Take a time-lapse of plant growth.

What role does color play on the effectiveness of your greenhouse to successfully produce fruits or vegetables?

Why affect on how much heat the greenhouse will hold?

How much sunlight will the plants need for optimal growth?

How do plants get pollinated?

How will you attract pollinators to your greenhouse?

Create an ebook that describes the plant life cycle.

Identify careers in plant science.

Take it further : What modifications will you need to make to your greenhouse in the wintertime?
How can you grow fruits or vegetables inside all year?

