

## 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.

## CREATE TO INSPIRE CHANGE...

### TEACHABLE MOMENT QUESTIONS

Create an arrangement of various natural elements on a string or a wire.

Take a picture of a collage made with natural materials to design an SDG promotional poster.

Create a piece of music to accompany your art piece.

Find a song that helps to convey or highlights one of the SDGs? Based on the music and lyrics, what emotion does the song generate in you?

Describe how your chosen SDG helps support empowerment, equality and inclusion.

What actions can you take to help those individuals or groups that feel disempowered? (locally, nationally, globally)

Identify and describe any geometric shapes that you may have used in your art piece?

Identify and describe any patterns found in any of the items you collected to use in your art piece? (patterns in nature are very common)

Based on your materials used, how much did it cost to complete your art piece?

How much time did you spend on your art piece?

Based on the SDG you chose, compare the status and/or progress of this SDG in Canada to another country in the world. What policies or social reforms have occurred in Canada (locally, provincially, nationally) to help address this SDG?

Create a mobile using natural material that will have relaxing effects.

Plan a meditation in nature to connect with yourself and appreciate the beauty.

What effect do the seasons have on the types of materials that you can collect for your art piece?

What new questions or problems came about from what you learned during this process?

What improvements could be made to your design or constructed object? Why?

How does light interact with your art piece? Does it look different being displayed inside (artificial light) versus outside (natural light)? Describe.

Identify and describe any symmetry found in the natural elements you used for your art piece (i.e. line or rotational symmetry).

Write a descriptive essay (or other form of representation) about your art piece. How was it created?

Write a persuasive essay (or other form of representation like a commercial) to help encourage others to take action and why your chosen SDG is important to you.

Share your art piece with others (social media etc).

Join the online conversation (or conversation within your community). Social media amplifies our voices and emboldens collective agency to help take action for change.

