

# Nurturing an Inquisitive Mind

Fostering curiosity and creativity in primary school classrooms is an important educational goal. These recommendations are developed based on an exploratory study aimed at showcasing the ways in which teachers are fostering these important skills.

## EXPLICITLY MODEL CURIOSITY

- Verbalise when you encounter new situations that present information gaps.
- Explicitly encourage students to wonder about their learning and the world around them.
- Model the use of language such as listening, sharing, explaining, turn-taking, reflecting, agreeing and even disagreeing.

- Provide opportunities for students to make connections between the lesson and their everyday lives.
- Encourage students to explicitly raise questions about the relevance of the learning session.

## CONNECT THE CLASSROOM WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

## IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND SHARE IDEAS

- Incorporate peer-to-peer discussions during lessons to help students identify and fill knowledge gaps.
- This can be achieved through the use of wonder sessions and wonder walls in which students actively think about, discuss and record their own information gaps.

- Provide students with the space to think about their own learning and the ways in which they can build their knowledge base.

## FACILITATE REFLECTION

## ENCOURAGE REVIEWING

- Provide students with multiple opportunities to review their previous and current learning.
- Encourage students to explicitly verbalise what they know, what they do not know and what they would like to know.

THIS RESOURCE WAS CREATED AS PART OF THE PROMISING PRACTICES STUDY.

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/research/promising-practices-curiosity-and-creativity/> to learn more about other promising practices that teachers are using to foster curiosity and creativity. Given the exploratory nature of this study, additional research will be needed to confirm the effectiveness of these practices in fostering curiosity and creativity.