

DEEP LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS @HOME

They Teach; They Learn

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As an experienced secondary school educator, I thought I had student engagement figured out but that has been put to the test while trying to teach my 7-year old daughter who is in grade 2.

For the past few weeks, we've been at home. We only go outside for a walk or a bike ride. At first, I tried to implement two hours of learning time each day – one hour for literacy and one hour for numeracy. However, I've found that it's hard to get my daughter to sit at the table to work. She wants to explore, play and do. I've taken her wants and created a daily routine so she's doing what she wants while still learning.

We head out for a bike ride every morning. She rides, and I run. We look, wonder and talk. Once we're back, I have my daughter identify something she saw outside that we can explore for the day. She has to articulate her wonder into a question. This question becomes our inquiry question for the day and the goal is to find the answer, by the end of the day.

She reads web articles and watches online videos to learn. I create an art activity related to her inquiry and generate math questions to complement her learning. For example, she wondered what the differences were between squirrels and skunks. She read some stories and watched some videos on line. Then, I asked her some math questions such as:

- How many bones does a squirrel's body have?
- How many bones does a skunk's body have?
- What's the difference?
- If there were five skunks, how many legs would there be in total?

At the end of the day, she sets up her classroom and becomes the teacher. Her dad and I sit on the carpet and are taught by our daughter. It's her chance to teach us what she's learned. This is her favorite part of the day. As she says, "I like being able to teach you what I know and make it interesting."



I tried to teach my daughter but have come to discover that she wants to be the teacher. My role is to facilitate the learning so she can wonder, explore, inquire and re-tell. So, turn the reigns over to your kids and see what they can teach you.



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