ACTIVITIES WITH FAMILIES
FOSTERING CHILDREN'S THINKING SKILLS

WHAT ARE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CURIOUS ABOUT?

Begin a class scrapbook with children and families. Invite each child and family to do a project together at home—with words, drawings, and photos—and share it with the class. Each family would have a page (or pages) in the scrapbook. Children could show their finished pages to the class, or families and children could share their pages at a family night.

You could also have class pages for large or small group investigations. Add the steps of the project and the children's predictions, drawings, and reflections.

Choose—and ask families to pick—projects that encourage the children to:

- Ask questions
- Think of ideas
- Make predictions
- Plan
- Do
- Observe
- Solve problems
- Reflect

Project ideas for families:

A nature walk. Children and families can predict what they will see, hear, smell, and feel. They could record what they find by making drawings or attaching objects to their pages of the scrapbook.

A cooking project. The adult and child could brainstorm ideas, plan the steps of the project, and cook together. Afterward, they might reflect on what went well and what they want to do differently next time.

A building project. The family member and child could use found and recycled materials—cardboard boxes and tubes, old CDs, yarn, or sticks—to make a creation. They could brainstorm, design, and build their idea.

A look at the night sky. The family may want to go outside with the child when the sky is dark and note what they see. This could include making predictions, doing research on stars or constellations, and making drawings of their observations.

PLAN THE PROJECT

Use the column on the right for your ideas for the class scrapbook.

The book. What kind will you use? Where will you get it? Will you send home a page to each family at the same time or rotate the book among families?	
The steps. How will you invite families to participate? How will you explain the project to families and exchange ideas?	
The time frame. How long will each family have to complete their project?	
The questions. Will you send home a list of questions that children and families could answer on their pages? For example, "What were the steps you took?" or "How would you do the project differently next time?"	
Sharing. Will the children share their pages in class when they bring them in? Will the families and children share their pages together at a parent night? Or both?	

For more information, contact us at: **NCQTL@UW.EDU** or **877-731-0764.**

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