

Science Knowledge and Skills: Asking Questions
Why Won't He Come Out?

Teacher: We're just going to look at him for a while, and we're going to think about, gosh, what do I want to know about this hermit crab?

Child: Cheese.

Teacher: You know what this is? Looks like cheese, doesn't it? Like that kind you sprinkle on your pizza? This is sand. He's crawling around in sand. And, let's see, he has a shell. He lives in a shell. If we are really, really still, he might come out and crawl around. Let's look at him. What do you want to know about this hermit crab? What would you like to know?

Girl: I want to see him.

Teacher: I want to see him. That's a statement. Can you think of a question that you have about this crab?

Girl: Why he don't want to come out?

Teacher: That is a lovely question. I'm going to write that down. You said, "Why doesn't he come out?" Are you wondering that, Johann? I'm wondering that, too. I'm looking at him, thinking, I really want to see this crab. Why won't he come out? He won't come out, why?

Girl: She's sleeping.

Teacher: He's sleeping. Is there anything else you can think of?

Girl: No, because I know.

Teacher: Tell me.

Girl: Because when we talk loud, he won't come out.

Teacher: Oh, I understand what she's saying. If we talk loud, it may scare him, so he's staying in that shell. Right? Now, those are good two—

Girl: Hey, I see him!

Teacher (whispering): Oh, shh, shh, don't say anything, don't say—shh, shh, shh. Don't move, don't move, don't move. Don't move, don't talk. Don't move. Shhhh. Don't say anything. Let's just watch. Shhhh. Shh, shh, shh, shh, shh... I think he's looking around.

Child: Yes.

Teacher: Do you see his eyes? Wow. He's walking around. He must not be afraid anymore. Shhhh. Don't—shhh. He's not afraid anymore. He came out of his shell. He's not sleeping either. Oh, man, is he going to climb out of the cookie pan?