

## Inquiry Project: Family Style!

Welcome to the world of Inquiry! We hope you enjoy this process and that your family is able to explore a topic that is meaningful and piques your sense of wonder!

It's important to realize that inquiry happens all the time in our everyday lives. Anytime a person asks a question or needs to find information about something, that's the start of inquiry. The search for answers and the ongoing quest for more information is inquiry in the truest sense.

When CFCI teachers design inquiry lessons, we are often limited by the curriculum we are expected to teach, but with this project, there are no constraints! The world is open to you and remember.... **"INQUIRING MINDS KNOW NO BOUNDARIES!"**

As you move through this process, think about the "Why, How, What"- **Why** do you want to learn about this topic? **How** are you going to learn about this topic? **What** are you going to do to share your learning?

Here is a basic outline of the inquiry process that your family can follow to get you started and help move you through the process.

Here are some specific steps you can take:

- 1) Make a list of topics, big ideas or issues you are interested in. Get everyone in the family to add ideas. Choose a topic that you want to know more about, piques your interest, is a problem you have to solve together, etc. The goal is that it taps into your sense of wonder and is meaningful to your family.
- 2) Brainstorm and ask these questions:
  - a. What do you know about this topic already?
  - b. What do you want to know or need to know about this topic?

\* These questions are your starting point, but are by no means an end point.

- 3) Identify sources of information you can use to answer your questions. These can be books, internet sources, experts in the field, experiments, field trip, etc.
- 4) Begin exploring and inquiring! As you move through the process, you may cycle through the asking and searching steps many times.
- 5) See if you can identify curriculum connections. What are the reading and writing, math, science, social studies, language, music, art, technology, and PE/Health connections? How many can you connect with your topic?
- 6) Once you've arrived at a "stopping point", decide how you are going to share your information with the CFCI community. Options are, but are not limited to, tri-fold, power point, model, demonstration, a collection of artifacts, original pieces of work (art/ music), and the list goes on!

Use the month of March to explore and inquire! Spring break could be a wonderful time for your family to jump into the inquiry process! Come to our Family Inquiry Showcase Night on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 as we have a whole school museum! All participating families will display their works and share their wonderful work!

**So, get out there and start inquiring!**