

C U R I O U S P A R E N T S

Parent and Carer Magazine

The Curiosity
Approach™



www.thecuriosityapproach.com

Welcome to the Journey

We are passionate about Early Years, inspiring our little ones to be the thinkers & doers' of the future. We have embarked on an incredible new approach which inspires children through curiosity, awe and wonder.

Through this approach, children learn through the use of authentic resources, recycled materials and loose parts. We are looking to create amazing play spaces for children, where they have the opportunity to become inquisitive capable learners.

The Curiosity Approach is a wondrous ethos that focuses on Curiosity, Awe, and Wonder in Early Childhood.

Through the use of authentic resources, loose parts and an approach that provides wondrous learning opportunities for your incredible little learners The Curiosity Approach is an ethos/approach which focuses on and celebrating magical moments in early years, providing passion, and the invitations to learning, which will promote Curiosity, Imagination, and Awe & Wonder for children.

It's exciting news and we hope you will join us on this incredible journey.

What it's all about...

Curiosity, Awe and Wonder,-providing wondrous opportunities to learning and development

Passionate motivated educators, who are curious adults too. Dedicated to inspiring our incredible little learners

Beautiful play spaces, which offer endless opportunities to learning and development.

The introduction of authentic materials, and loose parts, which teach children HOW to think and not WHAT to THINK!

Calm, tranquil environment allowing children time and space to learn

Creating the thinkers and doers of the future. preparing children for life

Authentic Materials

Instead of using plastic pretend, child-sized toys, We/ I will be using the real thing. Resources which value children's play. Moving away from manufactured toys- which are miniature and child size. By giving children 'real' authentic resources to play with, it opens up a wealth of opportunities for learning.

These resources offer a range of textures to explore and investigate. In comparison, plastic feels the same, smells the same and all looks the same. By providing an eclectic collection of resources, children are given a wider range of experiences, opportunities for critical thinking, exploration, and discovery.

Why we are moving away from bright colours

A stimulating environment to play in and explore helps your child learn and grow.

But sometimes too many activities and too much colour can add up to overstimulation.

Calm, tranquil space

Through The Curiosity Approach, we aim to provide a home-from-home environment, through a calming, tranquil space. Neutral colours, natural materials, cosy places for children to sit and look at books or engage in deep learning.

Bright colours, painted windows and rooms crammed with walls full of displays, laminated sheets and number lines, over stimulate children and can lead to oversensitivity, anxiety, and loss of concentration. We aim to provide excellent learning opportunities without impacting on your child's happiness and well-being.

Question

Have you ever been to the 'clothes sales', keen to go to the seek out a deal? You enter the store and immediately the atmosphere changes. Music plays methodically in the background, not hearing it, not interested in it. However, it is there filling your ears and mind relentlessly.

Clothes hang from every station, brightly coloured miss-matched items, all dragged out from every season and displayed to catch your eye and attention. No order to the arrangement, no purpose, just there to show you everything that has been on offer, over the past few months and sometimes blooming years.

Clothes or other random items fill every shelf, surface, just in case it meets your style or it might interest you in some way. A whole array of different, random pieces to meet the wide variety of tastes, sizes, styles and ensure the store meets the diverse needs of its wide-ranging customers.

Stuff is everywhere, messy unorganised chaos, as people toss items aside, with no regard for their value or replacing it back on the hanger it once came from or the shelf it once was displayed on.



People move quickly, their behaviour rude, curt and with no regard for the fellow shoppers that share this environment.

The music still drones on, like a constant earworm – ever relentless, ever playing! The artificial lighting is set to bright, glaring constantly to showcase the items within.

The shopper next to you pushes you out the way to grab the item on the shelf, shoving her pointy elbows in your side as she makes a grasp for that last remaining sale item.

How are you feeling?

Can you relate to such a shopping experience?

Did you want to get OUT pretty sharpish?

Did you want to escape as quickly as you entered, not interested, not engaged, not focused on the wealth of items on offer?

Are you experiencing sensory overload?

Let's Reflect

As Early Years educators, we all need to reflect on our own environments.

To think outside the box and view your play space through the eyes of the children within. At our settings, we are working tirelessly to improve the experiences and learning opportunities for children. To ensure children never feel over anxious, stressed or overstimulated. We aim to provide a space children feel happy, content. to feel safe and secure to play explore and investigate. To be

motivated stimulated. Curious inquisitive learners, who are given opportunities to reach their full potential and the 'wings to fly'.

Reflecting on questions, such as does my play space feel homely, inviting and not institutionalised?

Do we have elements of nature within, plants, flowers, nature, water etc?

Are resources thoughtfully presented – inviting children with subliminal messages to come and explore, investigate and play? Inspiring curiosity in Early Childhood.

Are resources easily assessable, allowing opportunities for self-selection, promoting independence and opportunities for free choice?

Do I offer children the opportunity to access authentic resources, loose parts, and recycled materials? Resources that allow children an opportunity to learn how to think, not what to think.



Loose Parts

What are loose parts?

Loose parts are items that can be used in a multiple of ways with no pre-determined outcome. Children choose how to use these items. They can combine them, line them up, join them together, transport them. Developing opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, problemsolving.

Opportunities for counting, sorting. Mathematical concepts and so many more learning outcomes.

Children can use these items for construction, building, joining them together, developing skills of problem solving and critical thinking. Through the use of items we are opening up a wealth of opportunities to experience a range of textures, size, shape and variable weights.

All of these help children to develop mathematical concepts, opening opportunities for conversation and questioning.

Loose parts can be used holistically across all areas of the setting and are usually stored, so that children can access and select them independently.

Loose parts have no fixed outcome, which means there is no right or wrong way to play or use these items. Which in turn ensures learning is not prescriptive with adult determined outcomes .

Children take ownership of their play and it opens up endless possibilities to learning and development. By using and interacting with these items children are developing essential manipulative skills, building their dexterity and fine motor skills in preparation for later pencil control.

Their focus is on the process of learning and being actively engaged, instead of creating an end result eg picture which is like taking a test.

Through the use of loose parts we are celebrating play as fundamental to children's learning and development.

Children are researchers in their own learning, they are highly motivated to engage and develop concentration skills and improves levels of perseverance.

Loose parts ensure children are taught HOW to Think, not WHAT to Think!



Exciting Times

We continually strive to offer excellent standards of care and education. By joining The Curiosity Approach Tribe we are looking to keep reflecting on my practice and the opportunities we offer your children.

We hope you can support us by saving loose parts and anything listed in the pages above.

The main goal is to ensure that your child reaches their full potential, in a stimulating caring and safe environment.

Giving your child the opportunity to follow their own learning style through curiosity, awe, wonder, and fun.

★ Thank you for taking the
time to support us ★





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Did you know that we are committed to the United Nations 17 Global Goals? We focus on Global Goal 4 – A Quality Education For All. We donate directly to Sparkle Malawi and sponsor numerous children to attend school!