

Wondering What Caused It

Look at the new color!



Ask your child questions about the world around him that will lead him to think about why things happen.

As your child begins to link cause and effect, he will think about explanations for changes that he sees.



Why this is important

Your questions can guide your child to think about cause and effect. Asking questions can encourage him to look at ordinary events more closely. The problems we attempt to solve get harder as we grow, but the method of thinking back to what happened before continues to be an effective way to try to understand and solve them.

What you do

- Observe your child's curiosity about events in his day. Almost any daily occurrence can be used for this game. A few examples are water freezing, a broken toy, and leaves falling from the trees.
- Guide him in wondering about cause and effect. Start by saying: *We're going to do some detective work to find out what caused that!*
- Ask questions that help him recount what just happened. *Now let's see. You were painting with two jars of color. What were the colors? Yes, that's right. Red and yellow. Now you have orange paint in the middle. Where do you think it came from?*
- Offer a different idea if his explanation is inaccurate. Do not correct his theory, but simply offer another view.
- Encourage any effort to figure out the cause of the mystery. Your child should feel comfortable exploring all possibilities that he thinks of.

Another idea

Encourage your child to be a detective in discovering what caused something to happen. Give him a notebook, a pencil, and a magnifying glass to use in his investigation.

Let's read together!

White Rabbit's Color Book
by Alan Baker