



Philosophy for Home Educating Children - a Quick Starter Discussion Ideas

Philosophy for children is a great way to encourage “out of the box” thinking and is suitable for all ages of children. It is also really great for children’s self esteem, as it feels so good to be talking about big things and be taken seriously. You can enjoy any of these activities at any time. The trick is to stop before your child loses interest and go with the flow.

For the last activity, you could create a Philosophy Jar and add questions, and then pull one out at a certain time every day to discuss. As a family you can add your own questions to the questions below as you develop your thinking skills together. The goal in philosophy is never to find the 'right' answer. Encourage your child to explain their thinking, listen to others, and explore ideas.

1. The “What If?” Game

ASK a big “what if” question and explore ideas together.

What if animals could talk?

What if nobody owned anything?

What if people never slept?

What if humans could fly?

Follow-up questions: Would that be good or bad? Who would it affect? Could it really happen?

2. Agree or Disagree

Discuss these statements:

Rules are always good.

Being kind is more important than being right.

Money makes people happier.

ASK: Why do you think that? Could someone disagree? Has talking about this changed your mind at all?

3. The “Why?” Ladder

Take a statement and keep asking “why?” to go deeper.

Example: Sharing is good → Why? → Why does that matter?

4. Mystery Object Thinking

What makes this object what it is?

If we changed part of it, would it still be the same thing?

Could something invisible still be real?

5. Big Question of the Day

What makes someone a good person?

What is fairness?

What makes something beautiful?

Can you know something for certain?

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