



Dare to be Curious

By Eileen Price

Check the door ... good, it's locked. With a leash in one hand and a precious small hand in the other, the afternoon walk begins. As always, you are in alert mode, aware of any activity along the path. Your check list scrolls through your mind; you remember to breathe and at least for the moment, take deep, meaningful breaths. Percy stops to sniff the neighbor's lawn. This is just one of a dozen doggy sniff stops. And then, there it is ... the tug on the hand and the dreaded question: "What's that?" (More commonly pronounced 'Wassat' or simply, 'Dat'?) You look down and then follow the pointed finger in the direction of the nearby bushes.

What's wrong with curiosity?



- It's distracting.
- It's annoying.
- It's not really a simple question. How do I respond? What effect will I create if I say too little or say too much?

The path is so long you can hardly see where it ends. Will you make it to the end? If Percy stops as much as usual, maybe you won't. You like the feeling of that big hand holding yours. It's nice getting out of the house. There is so much more space. Something moves in the nearby bushes. You tug on the hand. "What's that?" Of course, you want to run after it, to see where it goes, to watch what it does next, to see if there are more like it.

What's right with curiosity?

- It's magical.
- It's engaging.
- It's an exercise for the [imagination](#), a chance to let wonder be your guide.



I'll share a secret with you ... something that will bring a smile to both sides of the curiosity equation.

Try this.

Child: "What's that?"

You: "Well, how curious! What is it? What could it be?"

Let the child find an answer and make a game of it. Be silly, make suggestions that you know will get a smile. But at some point, do answer the question honestly. No need to create confusion for the young, inquiring minds. Make it okay to be curious. Your check lists will still be there when you get back.

Curiosity sparks the imagination. And the imagination is one of learning's best friends.

Coloring books are a great way to fulfill curiosity! Libby and her friends are waiting for you in [Color My World](#). Find it at www.wearebrilliance.com.



"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and trying new things, because we are curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." – Walt Disney

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." – Dorothy Parker