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PARENTING CHALLENGES TODAY

Albert Einstein said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Knowledge is available today at the press of a computer button. Parents therefore need to use a more creative approach to kindle the curiosity in their child. The maximum impact you can make on the future of your child is during the early years. You can spark off their imagination and make it glow brightly by spending some quality time with them. Do not let the internet or any electronic device interrupt this sacred ritual. Similarly, do not allow them T.V. time on week days. Restrict their viewing hours to weekends. Canned entertainment can restrict their imagination.

Invest in informative, colourful books. Show your child a picture and ask him/her to tell you a few sentences about it. This will make the child observe, think and speak better. Point out interesting details of the picture and discuss it. Read good stories to them, play cricket or any other game with them.

Bring fun into learning. For example, ask them to choose an alphabet. If it is ‘S’, ask them to list the creatures they know whose name begins with ‘S’. After the usual ‘snake’, and ‘squirrel’, let them hear about ‘sting ray’, ‘salamander’ and ‘sea horse’. Go online and show them pictures of these creatures. Read out simple facts about these creatures. Let them ask questions and develop a love for learning.

Allow them to plant a few seeds in small containers and take care of the plants. Your window sill will be crowded, but they will learn a lot. Keep a few plants in the dark and show them what happens. Explain why this happens. Show them how to water and care for plants. What they learn this way will be much more effective.

Ask them “What if ...” questions to kindle their imaginations.

“What if you had a pair of extra eyes behind your head?”

“What if there were no bees on earth?”

Teach them to make paper planes and fly it in the garden to learn about how birds fly. Let their inquisitive minds question and learn. As parents, you are entrusted with the future of your child. You can fulfil this responsibility by helping your child to be the best that he/she can be.

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