

# **PASSION PROJECTS and INQUIRY BASED PASSION PROJECTS**

## **What is a PASSION PROJECT?**

- Passion projects encourage students to deepen their understanding in an area of a student's own interest. They choose the topic and explore it. Often this includes asking many basic questions and finding answers.

## **What is an INQUIRY BASED PASSION PROJECT?**

- Inquiry based passion projects also explore a student interest, but begin with one great guiding question.
- Rather than simply learning factual information, inquiry-based learning engages critical thinking skills by deeply examining a topic and exploring the supporting details around the possible answers around the guiding question.

## **What is the difference?**

Passion projects are centered around a topic. Inquiry projects are centered around a question. Both explore information and questions during the learning process. Inquiry based projects tend to engage a deeper level of thinking.

## **Who is best supported by this type of learning?**

Students from kindergarten through grade 12, of all abilities, are motivated and able to be successful with these types of projects.

## **What types of topics can we choose from?**

**PROJECT IDEAS:** The Titanic, India, Cars, Logging, Teeth, a different country, Chickens, Teeth, Hockey, Candy, Graffiti Art, Beethoven, Space, Lego, Eyes, Residential Schools, Local Indigenous Culture, Egypt, Rocks and Minerals, Soccer, Poisonous Snakes, Dinosaurs, Rockets, Karate.... ENDLESS options!

## **How can my child show his / her learning?**

Students can show what they know in many different formats:

- **Create posters**
- **Create booklets (digital or paper)**
- **Create a website**
- **Create a presentation (PowerPoint or other)**
- **Share!**

### **BASIC PASSION PROJECTS:**

**STEP ONE: Identify** the area of interest

**STEP TWO: Explore** books and websites around that area of interest.

**STEP THREE:** Generate **questions** to help guide the project.

- Good questions go provoke higher level thinking
- Write down your curiosities and questions

**STEP FOUR: Choose** which questions about your topic that you are going to explore. Choosing up to 5 questions (sub-topics) will create a thorough project. However, be flexible based on the depth of the questions, your available time, and the abilities of your child.

**STEP FIVE: Explore** one question at a time. Gather information in books and online.

**STEP SIX: Record** the information what has been learned about the question. Use images and words to share the learning.

**STEP SEVEN: Repeat**

**STEP EIGHT:** Once completed, **share with pride!**

### **PASSION PROJECT Example:**

**MY PROJECT TOPIC:**

**GUINEA PIGS**

**My GUIDING QUESTIONS:**

What does a guinea pig need to have a healthy habitat?

What are the benefits and challenges of having a guinea pig?

What is the life cycle of a guinea pig?

How can I train my guinea pig?

Where do guinea pigs live in the wild?

**LEARN:** Read books, watch videos, and visit websites about guinea pigs.

**CREATE:** Using pictures and words, create a poster, PowerPoint or booklet that outlines each of the questions and the answers.

**SHARE:** Share my project with others and teach them all about my topic.

## **INQUIRY BASED PASSION PROJECT:**

**STEP ONE: Identify** the area of interest

**STEP TWO: Generate a great question** to guide the project. This should provoke higher level thinking.

**STEP THREE: Explore** books and websites around that area of interest.

**STEP FOUR: Begin with an overview** of the topic to provide background information. **Then begin exploring the complexities of the guiding question. Record** the information what has been learned about the question. Use images and words to share the learning.

**STEP FIVE:** During the learning process, **revisit the initial inquiry question.** It may continue to evolve. By the end, **summarize** what you have learned and **connect it to the initial question.**

**STEP SIX:** Once completed, **share with pride!**

## **INQUIRY BASED PASSION PROJECT Example:**

**MY INTEREST:** The creek near my house

**My INQUIRY QUESTION:**

**How does my neighborhood impact the creek near my house?**

**LEARN:**

- What is a healthy creek ecosystem? Who lives in the creek? Who relies on the creek?
- How does construction impact a healthy creek ecosystem?
- How does pollution impact a healthy creek ecosystem?
- What can we do to keep our creek healthy?
- How can I make a difference?

**CREATE:** Using pictures and words, create a poster, PowerPoint or booklet that outlines each of the questions and the answers.

**ANSWER THE INITIAL INQUIRY QUESTION:** At the end of the project, be sure to revisit the initial inquiry question. Provide a summary answer based on the information collected.

**SHARE:** Share my project with others and teach them all about my topic.