



WICOR: Inquiry

AVID@Home is an opportunity for parents to support AVID strategies at home with their own children.

WICOR Definition: WICOR is an acronym for strategies used in AVID classrooms. The letters stand for **W**riting, **I**nquiry, **C**ollaboration, **O**rganization, and **R**eading. This edition AVID@Home focuses on Inquiry.

Inquiry Definition: In the classroom, Inquiry refers to the asking and answering of high level questions. In another AVID@Home, we'll go deeper into levels of questions. Inquiry activities at school might look like Socratic Seminars, Philosophical Chairs, Quick-writes, etc. At home, increasing the amount of Inquiry will involve asking high level questions and having deep conversations about them. These conversations could be about the deeper meaning of a movie, the figurative language in a song, the implications of a current event, the intersection of science and society, the importance of education, the value of honesty, and more.

Connection to Home: Whenever you are in the car, in a store, at the beach, at a museum, at the library, there are opportunities to use Inquiry with your child. You can have a variety of high level conversations in the car about something on the radio, a business that you just drove past, or even a baseball or soccer game.

Example #1: When in the car, the conversation might sound something like, "Song Lyrics:

*And who do you think you are
Running 'round leaving scars
Collecting your jar of hearts
And tearing love apart*

Mom: Do you think he really has a jar of hearts at home?

Son: No, that would be disgusting!

Mom: Then what do you think that line means?

Son: It's probably not real hearts.

Mom: What other type of hearts are there?

Son: There's the figurative heart that falls in love. Ohhhh, so maybe he has a bunch of those hearts that he's collected.

Mom: What do you mean?

Son: He has broken a lot of hearts and he's proud of it.

Mom: Does that work with the next line from the song, "You're gonna catch a cold from the ice inside your soul"?

Son: Yes, that sounds like it means he's evil. Someone who breaks that many hearts could be considered evil.

Mom: Another word other than "evil" could be "heart breaker."

Son: Today, we might call that a “player” because to them, relationships are just a game.

Mom: What is that type of language called when you use a phrase like “ice inside your soul” to mean an evil person?

Son: Figurative language?

Mom: Yes!

Example #2: When in the grocery store, you could ask why a person might purchase a more expensive product than a less expensive product and have a discussion about it. You could ask them to explain how a company benefits from coupons. You could discuss why some vitamins say, “This statement has not been evaluated by the FDA.”

At the grocery store, the conversation might sound like this:

Father: A 2-liter bottle of soda costs \$1.29 and a 12-pack of cans costs \$2.99. Which is the better deal?

Son: How many liters are the 12 cans?

Father: I don’t know. How could we find out?

Son: Maybe it says on the label . . . It says “12 FL OZ (355 mL)”. But I don’t know how many ounces or mL there are in the 2-Liter bottle.

Father: Maybe it says on the label for the bottle?

Son: It says “2 Liters, 67.6 FL OZ” So, the 12 cans have 144 ounces for \$2.99 and the bottle has 67.6 ounces for \$1.09.

Father: So, which one is the better deal?

Son: I’ll need a calculator for that, can I use your cell phone? So, the cans are 2.1 cents per ounce and the bottle is 1.6 cents per ounce. So, the 2-Liter bottle is the better deal.

Father: So, why would anyone ever buy the cans?

Son: Because they don’t know math?

Father: There must be another reason.

Son: Maybe it’s about convenience. The cans are easier to carry to work and easier to drink in the car.

Father: Any other reasons?

Son: Yeah, the bottles go flat if you don’t drink them right away.

Father: So, which one is the better deal?

Son: I guess it depends what you’re going to use them for. For a birthday party, the bottle might be better. But for taking them in your lunch at work, the cans might be better.

Father: Can you think of any other situations where the cheapest item is not the best deal.

Son: Yes, with shoes. The cheap ones wear out quickly. Soccer balls too. And sometimes mom goes to the warehouse store and the giant boxes of cereal are really cheap, but we’d never eat all that cereal.

Father: It’s complicated, isn’t it? Imagine how hard it will be to choose a college!