**Turn the Why into What Questions**

**Philosophical questions** (e.g., Why do we have animals?) Validate student’s question by acknowledging how interesting it is and pointing out that this is not a question that scientists can answer.

**Complete questions** (e.g., Why does the magnet stick to the nail?)

Variable scan:

Identifying variables you think may be relevant. Model turning students’ “Why” question into “What would happen if” questions that involve changing one of the variables at a time to learn more.

* What would happen if we put a magnet covered with masking tape close to the nail?
* By changing that second variable one might come up with the further questions for study

These questions model asking questions that lead to developmentally appropriate practical investigations and ones which broaden a child’s understanding of factors that affect how magnets interact with different materials.

Questions requiring facts, names, etc. (e.g., What is the name of this animal?) Depending on the context, either encourage the student to find the answer in appropriate reference material or tell the student the answer.