



#inquirybythefire

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# 130 IDEAS FOR CHECK-IN QUESTIONS DURING REMOTE LEARNING

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Gathered from the audience of “Inquiry by the Fire” with Kimberly Mitchell, Trevor Mackenzie and Kath Murdoch. April 2020

**One of the questions that arose during our conversation was about how, in a remote learning context, we can continue to assess students’ learning.** In this part of the discussion, we talked about the importance of connecting with individual learners through 1-1 check ins.

Taking time to connect with each student not only helps maintain relationships but also allows us an opportunity to gather important data to inform our assessment. It gives US feedback on the effectiveness of what we are doing. In a bricks and mortar environment, this would be equivalent to informal check-ins through the day or the kind of personalised conversations we have when we confer with students individually and in small groups.

By scheduling regular check-ins with our students, we gather data that can inform plans for ‘where to next’ for their learning.

We invited our audience to share questions that have been working for them as they check in with their learners. We received some wonderful suggestions, and added a few of our own. The questions work in different ways but overall they prompt reflection, self-assessment and provide feedback for educators. And they let students know we care deeply about them and their learning.





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01. How are you?
02. Am I meeting your needs?
03. What do you need from me?
04. What have you always wanted to do at school that you couldn't because you were stuck in a classroom?
05. What do you have time for this week?
06. What have you been doing when you have not been doing school work this week?
07. What is your best memory this week?
08. What questions do you have at the moment that I can help you investigate?
09. What was your peak? What was your valley?
10. What is something you have enjoyed learning this week?
11. What did you find challenging?
12. What is a disposition you have noticed yourself using?
13. Have you discovered something new this week? A new hobby? A book? A plant you watched grow?
14. What was the most important note you write in your diary this week?
15. Would you be OK to share it with me?
16. What can we fix to make next week better?
17. What do you need from me?
18. What should we cut out?
19. What should we save?
20. What should we come back to again?
21. What connections can we make?
22. What have you learned this week?
23. What have you learned about yourself?
24. What have you learned about others?
25. What have you learned from reading, writing, observing, listening, reflection?
26. What are you curious about right now?
27. What hooked you in to wanting to find out?
28. What questions did you ask this week?
29. What is exciting for you?
30. What left you in a bubble where you didn't notice time passing?
31. What dragged for you this week?
32. What challenges have you had?
33. How have you overcome the challenges?
34. How are things going over there?
35. If you could learn about anything in the world what would it be?
36. What are three things that are interesting, insightful or important to you?
37. What challenged you today?
38. What was fun today?
39. If you were a takeaway food, what would sum up your day and why?
40. Who did you check in on today?
41. Would you rather have hands for feet or feet for hands!
42. If you could describe yourself as a ...right now what would you be and why?
43. What is important to you right now?
44. What is one unique thing you do as a family to be physically active?
45. What have you been unsure of this week?
46. What has given you joy this week?
47. What is something that has changed your perspective this week?
48. Have you chatted to...this week?



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49. What are you enjoying so far and why?
50. What are you finding difficult?
51. What made you smile or laugh this week?
52. What made you feel connected to others?
53. What did you love and why?
54. What about today do you wish you could have fast-forwarded through?
55. What would you have loved to press the pause button on so you could go deeper?
56. What are you doing to play and have fun?
57. What are you doing to connect with others?
58. How are you using your creativity?
59. What has sparked your curiosity this week?
60. What is something you have discovered at home that you never knew before?
61. What are you most grateful for this week?
62. What are you already learning that we could support you with?
63. What inspired you?
64. What surprised you?
65. What gave you hope?
66. What have you made, created, imagined, constructed, built, cooked, baked, noticed, solved, taken apart or drawn?
67. Can you show me/describe it to me?
68. Tell me more about that
69. What makes you say that/think that/do that?
70. What games have you played?
71. What songs have you listened to danced or sung?
72. What did you discover that was awesome this week?
73. How have you been a successful learner this week?
74. Which friends have you connected with?
75. How is this learning different from school learning?
76. Are there things you are learning better at home?
77. What went well this week?(rose)
78. How did you grow or what goals did you have for yourself (bud)
79. What did you have to deal with and how did you get through it? (thorn)
80. What's something about yourself we don't know yet?
81. How can you support each other at home to care for your wellbeing?
82. How are you feeling?
83. Is there anything you want to tell me?
84. What would you like me to ask you?
85. How are you using what we have learned at school when you are learning at home?
86. How are you approaching the learning tasks/ assignments?
87. Do you have a routine?
88. Where do you do your learning?
89. What is getting in the way of your learning? What can I do to help you with that?
90. How has it been going?
91. What are you learning about yourself?
92. What's the first thing you will do when we go back to school?
93. How would you like to style your hair given that no school rules apply!
94. Can you introduce me to your pet/s?
95. Have you contributed to a citizen science project?
96. How did you grow as a person this week?



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97. What skills did you practice?
98. What passions did you pursue?
99. What kindness did you show?
100. Was this week better than last week? How so?
101. How can I be of more help next week?
102. What's your family story?
103. What do you want to keep learning?
104. What do you want to let go?
105. What would you like me to learn about you?
106. What do you think I should let go/stop doing?
107. How might that make a difference to you?
108. Using one word (and it can't be good or bad) how are you feeling?
109. Are you doing anything you usually don't get to do?
110. What do you miss about school?
111. What don't you miss?
112. What would you take from this that we could adapt and use back at school?
113. What made you laugh recently?
114. If you were to give yourself a "grade" for .... What would it be and why?
115. When did you last experience some sunlight?
116. What should someone do if they are bored/sad/depressed/stircrazy from lockdown?
117. What could you choose to do differently tomorrow?
118. What superhero could help the world right now?
119. What do you think when you get up every morning?
120. What is your goal for the day?
121. What could you do to make yourself happy today/tomorrow?
122. What is one thing you won't repeat from last week/yesterday?
123. Is there something I don't know about you as a learner that you would like me to know?
124. What have you taught yourself this week?
125. Is there something that you have discovered that you could teach others about/to do?
126. What skills have been most important this week?
127. What attitude/strength has been important for you this week? Can you tell me more about that?
128. Is there an attitude/character strength you would like to work on next week? How could I help you with that?
129. Is there anything you think I need to work on? How can I improve as a teacher so I can better help you learn?
130. How does your "learning at school" self compare with your "learning at home" self? What are you noticing?