

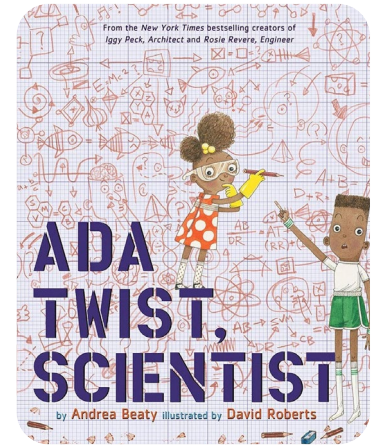


Inquiry Mindsets

The purpose of this activity is for educators to recognize ways that mindsets—of adults and children—can support children’s inquiries.

Key Concepts

- Adults’ mindsets about inquiry support children’s own curiosity and engagement in STEAM inquiry.



Materials and Setup

- Book *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty
- Paper and writing tool for each participant



20 minutes



Small groups



In-person or virtual professional learning

Activity Instructions

1. Read or listen to the book [Ada Twist, Scientist](#) by Andrea Beaty.
2. Consider the mindsets of both Ada and her parents.
 - a. What behaviors do they engage in, and what do these behaviors tell us about their mindsets? For example, Ada asks a lot of questions, showing that she is curious.
 - b. Make notes as the story is read.



Reflect and Discuss

- In small groups or with a partner, discuss responses to the following questions:
 - ◇ For each behavior identified, what mindset does it demonstrate toward inquiry?
 - ◇ Were there any behaviors observed that might limit Ada's excitement toward inquiry? Why do you think the adults in Ada's life reacted the way they did? Have you ever felt this way? What might happen if adults, sometimes without knowing, discourage children from asking questions and investigating? How might this affect children's identity in STEAM?
 - ◇ How might you support Ada's curious mind in your learning setting?
 - ◇ Inquiry can feel overwhelming for educators. Inquiry can get messy, questioning can lead to confusion, and the process of inquiry might not be straightforward and predictable. What are ways you might change your mindset toward inquiry to better support a child like Ada?

Using [*Ada Twist, Scientist*](#) with Children

This book is included on the Count Play Explore website for families and educators. Review the Book Guide for ideas on how to share this book with children and related activities.

- [*Ada Twist, Scientist*](#) (or [*Ada Twist, científico*](#) in Spanish) by Andrea Beaty

