Activity for Class 3

My granddaughter, who is three, has entered the "why" phase of childhood. With a great appetite for learning, children are insatiably curious about everything: their own bodies, their families, the physical world, the social world. Many questions naturally arise: why is the sky blue? why are you sad? why is that dog barking? where does snow come from? They are building a model of the world of nature and humans, of rules and requirements, of connection and care. That model will depend on the information they get from the people around them and from their own embodied and interactive experiences. See whether you can recall how your own early curiosity was met, and what methods you developed to learn about the world and its cause and effect relationships. What were you told, or what did you discover?

Some possibilities:

That's just the way it is
Because I said so
Stop asking so many questions
It's always been that way
Let's find out! How do you think we could find that out?
Why do you think?
Don't bother me, I'm busy right now

Challenges to the logic from authority

As a teenager, what was your general response to the reasoning of authorities such as your parents, teachers, or "experts?"

Can you think of examples in your own experience of the four views of causality from Indian philosophy?

The effect is inherent in the cause: for example, your depression is caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain. "Boys will be boys"

Some external cause creates the effect: his terrible work situation is causing his high blood pressure. "the tree jumped in front of my car."

Causes are both internal and external: a bad environment and a longing to belong lead teenagers to join gangs. Crime is a result of motive plus opportunity.

There is no cause and effect relationship: life is full of random, unpredictable events that have no cause. We just try to explain the chaos somehow by making up cause and effect stories.

We might even cycle through these explanations, especially when we have been shocked by some event or experience.