FAMILY ACTIVITY: SUPER NOTICERS

In this activity, youth activate their superhero senses by becoming super-noticers! Youth will each create a noticer tool, which is a kind of frame that facilitates detailed observation of what they see. A noticer is created from paper plates and sticks, and looks like a big magnifying glass with no lens. Noticers are especially terrific for observing nature, and are great conversation starters to build observation skills.

Strong observation skills can be developed with practice, and are beneficial in all areas of school and life—including helping to keep us safe. In this activity, youth will take time to observe their surroundings, and will communicate with family members to share the details they notice, as well as what sparks their curiosity.

MATERIALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Materials
- Paper plates - 1 per youth
- Scissors
- Stick - 1 per youth, popsicle stick or tree branch
- Tape - masking or duct tape, or hot glue
- Coloring utensils (optional)

Instructions
1. Make a Super Noticer: Many superheroes have one or more ‘super’ senses. Today we’re going to play with our sense of sight and become super-noticers.
   a. First we’re going to cut a big hole in our paper plate.
   b. Next, attach your stick with tape. Make sure it’s secure and doesn’t wiggle.
2. Use your Super Noticer: Go observe!
   a. Go for a walk- outdoors or around your house.
   b. Look closely for things that you haven’t noticed before
   c. Describe the coolest area you observe out loud

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

While creating your Super Noticer:
1. What are our senses?
2. Which superheroes have super-senses?
3. If a superhero is a super noticer, how might that help them?
4. Some animals are super noticers - how is that helpful to them?
5. Are any of your senses really good? What are your super-senses?

After using your Super Noticer:
1. What is something that you noticed that you would like to learn more about
2. Describe something you saw- with as much detail as possible.

IDEAS TO INCLUDE YOUNGER SIBLINGS! (ADAPTATIONS FOR 0-5 YEAR OLDS)

- Younger children will enjoy going on a noticing walk with you. Narrate what you see and ask them what they are noticing too.
REFERENCES, MODIFICATIONS, & EXTENSIONS

Modifications
- Noticers can be personalized via coloring or other additions.
- This activity can be differentiated for all age groups.
- For 9+ year old youth, have them draw a super-detailed drawing of one thing that they noticed.

Extensions
- Youth could use their noticers on future nature walks or in other activities.
- Youth could keep nature or observation journals, where they record what they see visually and/or verbally.
- Youth could research things they observe through their noticers.
- Youth could work on verbalizing observations by Partner 1 explaining what they see in their noticer, and Partner 2 drawing it without looking (based only on what Partner 1 says).