



SHAKHSIYAH
SCHOOLS

Independent enquiry in primary education: Developing children's research and self directed learning skills

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Islam Encourages Independent Enquiry and Critical Thinking

- ▶ There is a common misconception that Islam does not encompass free thinking and critical thinking.
- ▶ In reality the Quran encourages critical thinking:
“Do they not think deeply (in their own selves) about themselves (how Allah created them from nothing)...”
The Quran (Chapter 30, Verse 8)

Independent Learning in Shakhsiyah School

- To ensure children are genuinely empowered to act as partners in their own learning
- To create spaces within the curriculum for children to engage in learning dialogues with teachers
- To encourage children to exercise agency and be active partners in decision-making about teaching, learning and other classroom practices.
- To enable children to review their own learning needs and progress
- To involve parents through the learning journey
- To value the child's perspective and believe in promoting child voice by supporting children to carry out research on topics that are important to them.

Developing Inquiry within the Shakhsiyah Creative Curriculum

What would you really like to learn from this theme?

- ▶ The thematic enquiry based learning provides an opportunity for children to act as co-constructors of their curriculum.
- ▶ It enables children to personalise their learning by asking 3 enquiry questions at the beginning of the theme.
- ▶ Children are encouraged to research, investigate and problem solve to inform their learning over the 6 weeks of thematic learning per theme in:

Halaqah, Maths, English, KUW and ACDT

How We Promote IL in Lessons

- Giving children choices so they can reflect in their own interests and preferences
- Encouraging group work so that children can learn from each other
- Collaborate with children to set shared learning goals
- Involve children in planning for the theme
- Encourage pupils to reflect and plan in IL project booklets
- Encourage self and peer editing before work is handed in
- Prepare for showcasing the IL to the school community in the Research Exhibitions

Teacher asks....

- What would you really like to learn about in this theme?
- What research question could you formulate to help structure your enquiry?
- What sources could you use to find out the answer?
- How will you present your research to the school community?

Examples of IL Research Questions

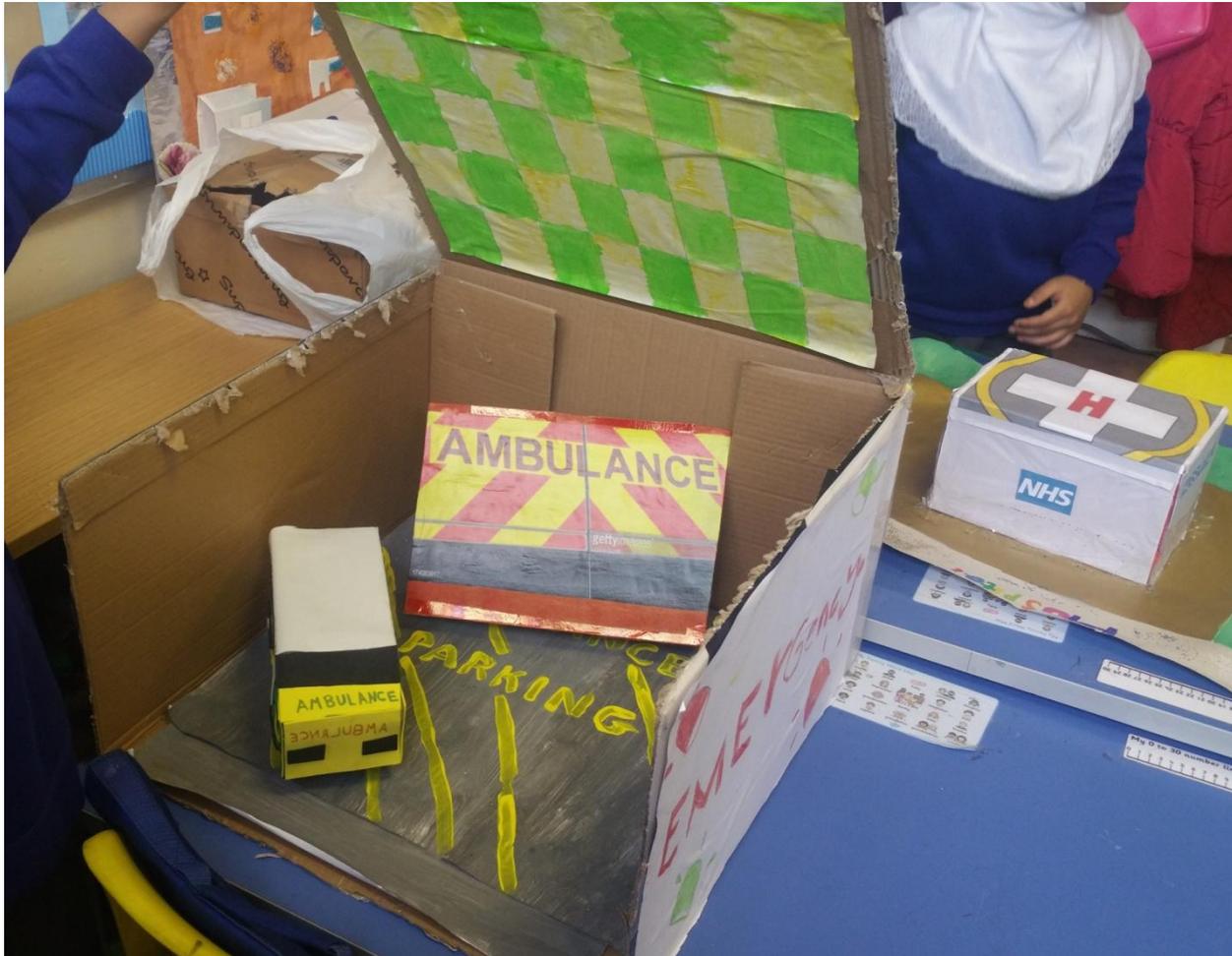
Theme	Research Question
My Family and Community	What does our school look like to the community?
Good and Bad	What materials make good conductors?
Forces	Is there life on the Sun?
Change and Progress	How have modes of transport changed over the last 100 years?
Systems	Can a speaker be made using a Bluetooth device?
Depending on Allah	What living organisms live in a habitat?
Justice and Equality	Can human beings be just and equal at the same time?

Examples of IL Projects

- 3D models
- Art work
- Project Booklets
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Nasheeds/Poetry
- Newspaper/Journals
- Videos/Photography



Year 2 model – Theme: Family and Community
RQ: What does our school look like to our community?



Year 2 model – Theme: Journeys
RQ: How do sick people get to the hospital?



Year 4 model – Theme: Health and Medicine

RQ: What did the first hospital look like? (Baghdad, Iraq in 8th Century)



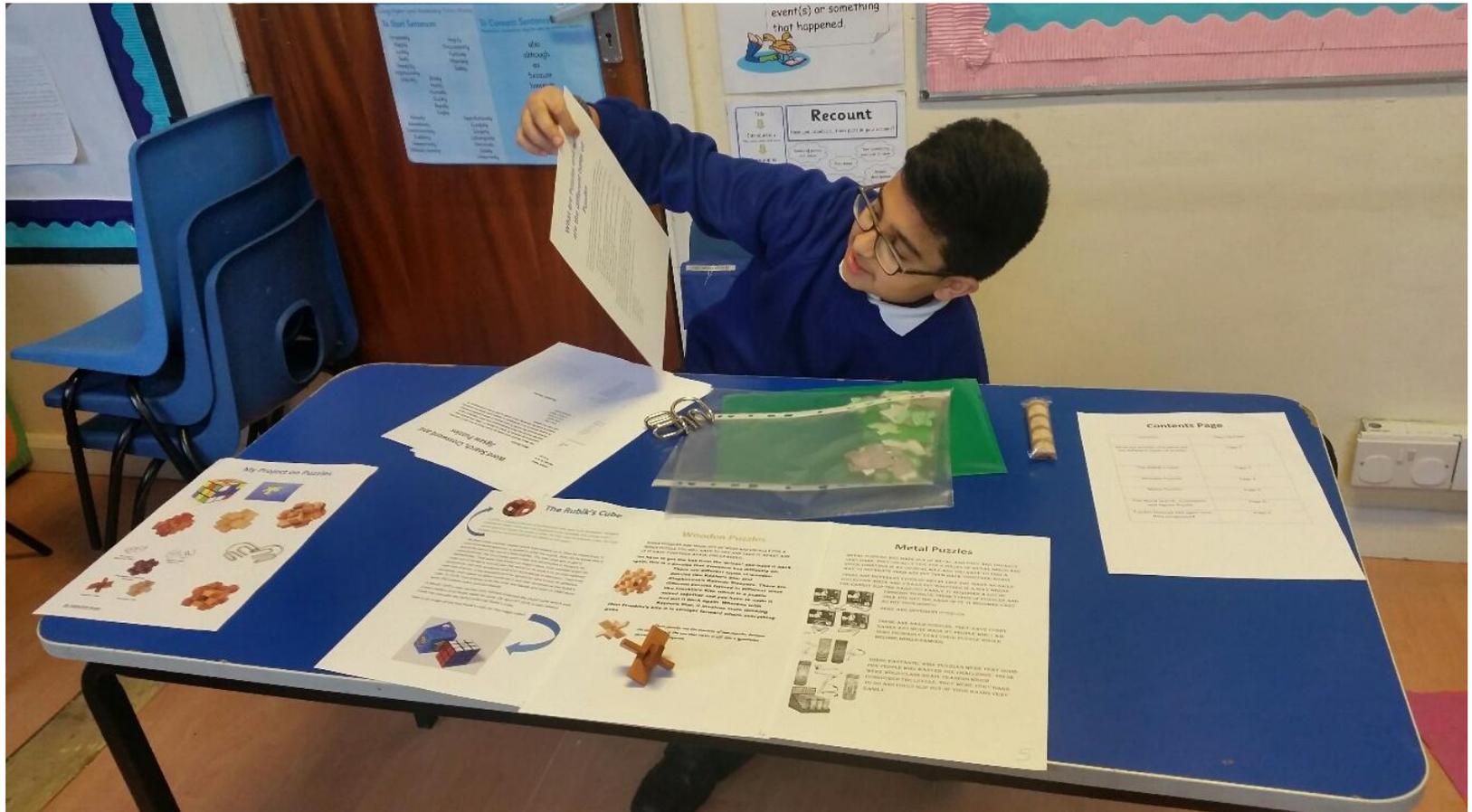
**Year 5 model – Theme: Arts and Architecture
RQ: How can we make pottery look beautiful?**

**Year 3 model – Theme:
Astronomy and Navigation
RQ: How do windmills work?**





**Year 4 model – Theme: Circles and Cycles
RQ: How does electricity flow in a circuit?**



Year 6 Research – Theme: Circles and Cycles RQ: How was the Rubics Cube invented?



Year 6 Research Exhibition – Theme: Diversity and Difference