What do Inquiry-Based Approaches to Learning look like?

An inquiry-based approach to learning may look different from class to class; however the following 5 essential elements will be present:

1. Ask questions.
2. Explore by observing, investigating researching.
3. Analyse and describe findings.
4. Communicate and share learnings.
5. Reflect on what has been learnt.

What is the role of the teacher?

The role of the teacher in an inquiry-based approach is to teach, facilitate and guide students through the inquiry learning process.

Initially, teaching teams meet to determine the relevant key concepts, understanding and knowledge from the Australian Curriculum. These are presented to the children in the form of learning intentions.

Through a range of learning experiences teachers expose the children to the key facts and information about the learning intentions and the skills necessary for learning.

Alongside this process students are developing inquiry questions linking the learning intentions and an area of personal interests. Through personalised project work guided by teachers, students explore, investigate, research, analyse and describe their findings. Opportunities are also provided to communicate, share and reflect on their learning.

Assessment involves two parts; students understanding of the concepts, skills and knowledge presented in the learning intentions and the learning process, culminating in the presentation of individual projects.

The key to inquiry learning is student engagement and a common understanding of the learning intentions.