

Source: John Locke, *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*, 1693

Curiosity in children is but an appetite after knowledge; and therefore ought to be encouraged in them, not only as a good sign, but is the great instrument Nature has provided to remove that ignorance they were born with; and which, without this busy inquisitiveness, will make them dull and useless creatures. ... They are travellers newly arrived in a strange country, of which they know nothing ... Children are strangers to all we are acquainted with are strangers to all we are acquainted with; and all the things they meet with, are at first unknown to them ... That which every gentleman (that takes any care of his education) desires for his son, besides the estate he leaves him, is contained, I suppose, in these four things, *virtue, wisdom, reading and learning*. ... [There] ought very early to be imprinted on his mind a true notion of God, as of the independent Supreme Being, Author and Maker of all things, from Whom we receive all our good, Who loves us, and gives us all things. And consequent to this, instill into him a love and reverence of this Supreme Being.