

The Busy Beast Parent/Caregiver Discussion Questions

1. Who or what sets the pace of life in your household? Does the current pace feel right to you? Why or why not?
2. How do your children's schedules compare to yours when you were their age?
3. In the book, the Busy Beast says, "You must work hard! Play's a treat you earn" and a child replies, "You are mistaken. Play is HOW we learn." How do you see the relationship between work and play in childhood?
4. The children in the book believe the grown-ups have accepted the Beast, that busyness is just a part of life. Do you think that's the case in your community?
5. Do you currently see your child's school as an ally or adversary in your relationship with busyness? What policies do they have that support or challenge The Busy Beast?
6. There is a line in the book that alludes to the William Butler Yeats quote, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." What activities do your children do in or out of school that seem to "light them up"?
7. Many organized programs for children create a strain on families because they can be expensive and take away from family time. Brainstorm some free or nearly-free activities you do (or could do) as a family or with friends.