

What are..... Questions?



Asking questions and giving answers is part of how we interact and talk with others. For young children, it's how they learn to interact with others, as well as helping them think and understand about their world around them. It's also an important part of learning within the classroom.

There are no 'right' or 'wrong' questions. It's just important for children to understand and know how to answer a variety of *different* questions. Some types of questions are easier to understand than others, so a hierarchy of questions has been developed called *Blank's levels of questioning*. See the column to the right with examples of different types of questions children should understand at different ages.

How can I help??

You can help your child learn to understand and answer different types of questions by including them in your conversations each day.

For example - getting dressed in the morning, during mealtimes, having a bath time, hanging out the washing, making lunch, driving in the car, grocery shopping, digging in the garden..... these are all great opportunities to talk with your child about what's happening and ask some different types of questions.

Here are some examples for making sandwiches for lunch:

For younger children: Where's the ham? What colour is the lettuce? Which piece of cheese is little? What do we use the knife for?

For older children: What's your favourite type of sandwich? Why do you like that? What do we do next after eating the sandwich? How are lettuce and tomato the same? What is a knife? What's like a knife?

If your child doesn't answer immediately, give them 3-5 seconds to have time to think. Then if they still don't respond, answer the question for them so they can learn how they could answer next time.

If you're concerned about your child's language development or any of the above areas, contact a speech pathologist to discuss whether assessment for your child is indicated.

Different types of questions for different ages

Level 1 for 3-4yrs

What do you see/hear/smell/feel?
What is this?
What colour is it?
Who is this?
Where is the..... shoe, apple, bag?

Level 2 for 4- 4 ½ yrs

What is happening?
What do you see at the zoo?
How are these different?
What is this for? What does it do?
Which one is hot/long/wet etc...
How many?

Level 3 for 4 ½ -5yrs

What will happen next?
How are these the same?
Which one is not the same?
What's your favourite?
What is a..... cat, knife, hat etc?
What could she say?

Level 4 for 5-6yrs

What will happen if?
Why did this happen?
How could we test/show/explain that?
Why didn't it work?
Why do you like that?
Why should we use that?
How did that happen?



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