



WHAT QUESTIONS@ HOME



Asking and Answering “What” Questions

Asking and answering WH questions are an essential skill as it allows children to participate in conversations, demonstrate knowledge, and collect information about themselves and the world. Some questions are easier to answer than others. “What” questions are typically one of the first type of questions targeted.

Answering and asking “what” questions can be divided into 4 steps:

1. **What's this?** (can be done with pictures/objects)
2. **What doing?** (i.e. “what is she doing?”)
3. **What do you do...?** (i.e. “what do you wear in the winter?”)
4. **Function questions** (i.e. “what do you use a brush for?”)

What to do if your child has difficulty answering questions:

1. Point to pictures/objects to help answer questions
2. Provide your child with two options
3. Wait 5- 10 seconds then say the correct answer to your child



Daily Practice Ideas

Day 1: Go for a walk and talk about different things you see by asking: “what is the car doing?”, “what is the bird doing?”

Day 2: Cook a meal together and ask your child questions like: “what do we need to stir?”, “what is next?”

Day 3: Play charades together and ask questions like: “what am I?”, “what are you doing?”

Day 4: Hide household objects in a bag and encourage your child to ask the following questions to guess what is inside the bag: “what colour is it?”, “what does it do?”, “what does it feel like?”

Day 5: Read a familiar story and ask your child questions like: “what do you think will happen if..” and “what would you do if...”

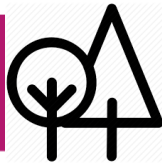
See back of page for additional information and resources!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Check out these links for more resources and activity ideas

- Reading is one of the best ways to work on asking and answering questions with children. Check out this [article from Hanen](#) on ways to read books with your children to build their language skills.
- Children learn best when they are interested in the topic! Here is a link to the popular [Koo Koo Kanga Roo videos](#), which will allow your child to sing and dance at home. You can ask your child questions (i.e. “what song should we dance to?” or “what dance moves should we do?”) before playing the video.
- This [handout from Super Duper](#) includes some fun ideas on how to incorporate WH questions at home.

Crafts



Target “what” questions while doing activities your child is interested in, such as crafts. Create these butterflies with your child and answer and ask questions like:

- “what do we need?”
- “what colour is it turning?”
- “what is happening?”

This [website](#) includes step-by step instructions and a video how to create this craft!

