

Helping to...

Develop your child's understanding

- ✚ Lots of children in our school child are part of speech and language groups to help with their understanding of spoken language. There are a list of questions below to ask your child when you are sharing books or working on their home learning packs to help to continue to develop their understanding while they are at home.
- ✚ Try not to overload with questions, just pick out a few from each level for each activity your child is working on. Level 4 are the hardest type of question.

Level 1 questions

- What can you hear?
- Point to an object (What is this)
- Show me the....
- Who is that?
- What can you see?

Level 2 questions

- What's happened?
- Who is in the story/ where are they/ what are they doing?
- What are the characteristics of an object - What size is it? What shape? What colour? How many? How does it taste/smell/feel? Where is it?
Identifying object functions - Show me the one we use for cutting/drawing eating etc...
- Identifying differences - How are these different?
- Name an object from a category e.g. Tell me something that's a type of fruit, item of clothing etc.

Level 3 questions

- What might the person in the story be saying, thinking or feeling?
- What might happen next?
- Retell me the whole of the story
- Give child a 2 part instruction e.g. put your book on the table and then find page 80.
- Ask your child to give you an instruction on how to do something...Tell me how to plant a bulb etc
- How are these 2 items the same?
- Which one is not ...round, furry, shiny etc..
- Tell me something else we could use to... paint with, eat with etc.

Level 4 questions

- What will happen if ...
- Why do you think that might happen, why did the character do that...
- What else could you do? What could the character have done...
- Explain why something can't be done e.g Why can't we ...
- How can we tell?
- What could the character have done instead...
- Explaining means to goal - Why should we use that?
- Explaining construction of objects - Why is ... made of ...?

Top tips to help Understanding

If your child does not always understand you, there are different ways you can help. These techniques help to scaffold your child's understanding and can be gradually dropped as your child's understanding improves.

Try the following suggestions:

- **Give time** - make sure you have given your child enough time to respond (count 10 seconds in your head).
- **Delay** - make sure your child has waited until you have finished your instruction.
- **Focus attention** – make sure your child is looking at you and listening to your instruction.
- **Repeat** – repeat the instruction again
- **Simplify** – break your request down into parts or make it simpler.
- **Use questions to clarify** – check your child understands by asking him questions.
- **Forced alternatives** – give your child two alternatives (e.g. “What is he doing? Is he running or jumping?”).
- **Sound/syllable cues** – give the first sound or syllable of the answer.
- **Signs/Gestures** – use gesture to help your child understand or to cue him in to the correct answer.
- **Rephrase** – repeat the request in a different way. •
- **Sentence completion** – give the answer sentence for your child to complete (e.g. what colour is it? It's”).
- **Demonstration** – show the answer without talking and then ask again (e.g. what would happen if we put water in this broken cup?” Demonstrate). • Experience the concept - help the child to experience the answer (e.g. “How does it feel? Touch it.”).

Helping to...

Develop Vocabulary Skills

Reading book challenge, when reading your favourite story see if you can complete this challenge!

Find a word you like the sound of	Find a word that starts with the letter "..."
Choose an action word and act it out e.g. running, jumping.	Find a word you have not heard before or seen before, use google to find the meaning.
Which word is an interesting word?	Choose a word and think of a similar word that you can use instead
Give a page number and get them to find the longest word on the page	Find a word and clap the syllables to a word
Find a tricky word to get your child to try and spell	Find a naming word and get your child to think of another word to go with e.g. different animals or type of clothes

Use this **word wheel** to help explore New Words. Going through the questions will help children to store words they didn't already know as well as help to develop their skills in explaining things about words they are confident with.

