

Advice about asking Questions

Asking questions is a good way of finding out what your child knows, however to help them to learn their words and how to make sentences it is more helpful to reduce the number of questions asked. This is because if you ask a child a question and they don't know the answer they can feel on the spot and uncomfortable. Below are some strategies that you can use to help with asking questions.

Use questions if you need to find out specific information that you don't know the answer to.
e.g. "Where are your shoes?", "Do you need the toilet?" etc.

If you do ask a question, always remember to give your child time to think about their answer.

Try and use comments instead of questions. e.g. instead of asking your child "what's that?" simply say what the object is or what they are doing
"car", "running" etc.

Instead of asking closed questions try and give your child choices to prompt them in case they don't know the answer. e.g. "Is it a car or a truck?". This way you can still see if your child knows the answer but have provided them with the word.



Try and surround questions with comments. e.g.
Question - "What's that?"
Comment - "Car"
Comment - "Fast Car"
Comment - "Car's wheels".

Use leading questions such as "I wonder what this is?", "I wonder what you did at nursery today?" This puts less pressure on the child as it does not demand an answer. Your child can choose whether they want to answer or not.

We ask questions every day without even thinking about it. Therefore reducing the number of questions asked is a very difficult thing to do so keep practising!

