

Other things to try 7f - Listening to stories to understand 'what', 'where' and 'why' questions

Book Page 152



Why is this important?

Questions should be used throughout children's daily routines. Questioning and answering across all situations will develop these skills best. This activity will help children understand and discriminate between the different question words using familiar stories.

What to do

- Read a story (e.g. 'Three Little Pigs', 'Gingerbread Man', 'Cinderella').
- When the story is finished, look back through the book with the child, asking questions relating to the story, e.g.
 - 'What did the first pig build his house from?'
 - 'Where was the Gingerbread Man made?'
 - 'Why did the fox tell the Gingerbread Man to climb on his nose?'
- Use the pictures in the story to help the child remember and prompt with choices if necessary, e.g.
 - 'Was the Gingerbread Man made in the bedroom or the kitchen?'
 - 'Was the first pig's house made of straw or paper?'
- Try not to ask too many questions but include some discussion about the story as well. This will help the child's vocabulary and encourage him/her to think more laterally. It will also give the child an opportunity to voice his/her opinions regarding the story: 'Who did you like? Which bit of the story did you like best?'



Step up

- Introduce more questions relating to 'when' and 'how' things happened.
- Reduce the number of gestures and choices used to prompt answers. If the child finds this difficult, try to guide him/her to the correct answer by looking at the pictures and recalling the story.



Step down

- Use signs/gestures to help the child understand the key question words.
- Start with shorter stories or shorten traditional stories by only giving the essential information.
- You may need to read the story several times before asking questions.