

ASKING QUESTIONS THAT SPARK THINKING

There are different types of questions we can ask children. Some are more likely to spark thinking than others. We can help children become better thinkers by regularly asking questions that spark their thinking.



QUESTIONS ABOUT FACTS

Some questions ask for facts. These questions have a definite right or wrong answer. They are important to make sure children understand but **don't usually get children thinking.**



QUESTIONS ABOUT LIKES AND DISLIKES

Some questions ask children to tell us what they like. These are important for knowing our children well and listening to them but **children can often answer them without thinking.**



QUESTIONS THAT ASK FOR A DECISION

These questions spark thinking! There's usually more than one possible good answer. People can agree or disagree based on the same facts. They can often lead to thinking and lively discussion.

4 WAYS TO ASK QUESTIONS THAT SPARK THINKING



CRITIQUE



ASSESS ONE THING

Ask children to think about one item and decide if it is good or exciting or interesting or beautiful... or any other quality! For example:

- How convincing is that commercial? Does it make you want to buy that cereal?
- How healthy do you think this meal is?
- On a scale of 0 to 10, how much energy do you have right now?

JUDGE



COMPARE TWO OR MORE THINGS

Ask children to think about two or more items and decide which one is better or worse in some way. For example:

- Of the 3 things you have to do for school this week, which one is most important to start first?
- Of the 4 choices for a movie tonight, which one do you think would be most appropriate and interesting for the whole family?
- Which outdoor activity would be most fun and give us the most exercise in the amount of time we have?

REWORK



CHANGE SOMETHING TO MAKE IT BETTER

Ask children to change something to improve it or make it more useful for different people. For example:

- How could we change the rules of this game so your little brother could play with us?
- We don't have all the ingredients for this recipe. What could we use instead?
- What are 2 things we could do that would make reading stories together even better?

DECODE



TRY TO SOLVE A MYSTERY

Ask children to use clues to figure out something uncertain by using clues to make predictions or better guesses. For example:

- Look at the cover of this story we're about to read. What do you think it's about? What do you see that makes you think that?
- We see an animal's home! What animal might live here? What clues do we see that might help us?
- What do you think your sister is feeling right now? What is she doing or saying that makes you think that?