



# Ways to Ask Open-Ended Questions

## Ask questions and pause for a response

Ask questions about the child's play that begin with "who, what, why, where, or how." Then, pause to give the child time to think and respond.

Caregiver

What are you playing?

Child

...

Cars.

Where is your car going?

## Ask about routines you are doing together

When you are changing diapers, you can encourage engagement by asking open-ended questions. Try it with other routines, too!

Where is your leg?

\*wiggles legs\*

That's right! That's where your leg is.

## Ask questions that encourage a child to lead

When pretending to cook, you can ask questions that encourage the child to lead.

What should we cook?

We're making soup.

Oh, soup sounds yummy!

When asking questions to children who have difficulty with language, you can give extra support by providing choices or using fill in the blank.

**Choices:** "What do you want? Do you want the ball or the blocks?" (show choices)

**Fill in the Blank:** "Where is the ball? It's under the ..." (point to location)

## Open Questions

Ask questions in a way that encourages children to respond in different ways, rather than simply "yes" or "no."



Often, young children don't know how to answer questions, and very young children might not understand what a question is. If a child does not answer a question, pause and then fill in the answer yourself. By modeling, you are teaching the child how to answer!

Where is the ball?

...

Oh, the ball is under the table!