



THE IMPORTANCE OF QUESTIONS

Dear Parents,

Questions help your child focus on the important elements of reading and their probable causes or effects. There are many opportunities during the day when you and your child can share questions. But question-asking should not be limited to only reading time. It can be a normal and natural part of each family's daily activities. Most importantly, it can become an important part of your child's reading development.

1. Ask your child lots of questions that begin with the word "Why." These questions encourage active thinking and help your child explore the reasons for certain events or occurrences, both in books and everyday life. For example: "Why do we need traffic signals?", "Why do some animals live underground?", or "Why do we have to wear shoes?"
2. Provide your child with opportunities to ask questions, too. For example, when you and your youngster select a book to read, ask your child to pose one or two questions about the title on the cover of the book. Before your child begins reading the book, encourage him or her to develop additional questions about the story that can be written on a sheet of paper. After completing the story, take some time to talk over and discuss the questions your child posed.
3. Some of the most important kinds of questions you can share are those that relate to your child's personal experiences. For example, how would a certain story have been different if your child were the main character? What things did the characters in a favorite book do that your child has done? Has your child seen or visited places similar to those that were mentioned in a recently read story?