

# Get in the habit of asking questions – reading isn't passive.

When reading aloud, it is not just about the story – it's also about engaging your children's brains. **Always ask questions!**

**There are three basic types of questions to help young minds expand and develop:**

**1**

**Literal Questions** — These are right in front of you to help teach vocabulary and information.

*What color is that? What type of plant is this?*

**2**

**Inferential Questions** — Your child will have to follow the information in the book to get the answer. These help children look beyond just the words and to the ideas.

*Does that animal like what it is eating? How did the character feel?*

**3**

**Evaluative Questions** — What children think about a book's situation. These are judgment calls and will help your little one take a position on the story. They will benefit your child's development of empathy and perspective; improve their communication skills; and teach them to tell their own stories.

*Did you think that the character was nice? Do you think that was a good thing? What would you do?*

For our earliest readers, it will be hard to get them to understand all the questions. But as they grow, their brains need to be fed – make sure you mix up the questions that you ask when reading aloud so they get it all.

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