

DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF LITERACY

This month's focus: Questioning

- Motivation to read is an essential first step, but don't stop there!
- **Discuss** books with your child by asking them questions and challenging them to share what they might be wondering or want to know more about as they are reading.
- Questioning allows for children to express opinions, further develop their reading identity, and learn about new perspectives. It will also help you and your child understand if this topic was enjoyable and of interest to them.
- Hearing others ask questions sets the foundation for how to ask their own questions as they read, known as monitoring for meaning in the older grades.
- Discussing the book is a great way to gauge how much they understood.

Did you know that **13 minutes of reading each day equals 1 million words read in a year?**



Did you know that **listening to someone read, in your home language or in English, is a literacy skill?**

What does the research mean?

- Asking children questions about their reading allows them to process information.
- Engaging your child in 'book talk' allows them to make connections to other books, to their lives, and to the world around them.
- Finding time to ask your child about the book they are reading while you are in the car, as you wait at the doctor's office, or after you finish reading, is a great way to learn more about what interests them and prompt them to think more critically.
- Engaging in frequent conversations about books will build children's confidence and support them in leading these discussions.
- If your child is ready, challenge them to write or type a question they have about the story.



Ask your child questions to get them talking about what they are reading and what they want to read!

- Make a prediction before reading-What do you think this story is going to be about?
- If you were the author-What would you change about the story (a character, event)?
- Pause in the middle of the story-What do you think is going to happen next?
- How did this part make you feel? Why?
- Does this book remind you of any other stories that we have read?
- What challenges or problems did this character face?
- How did they overcome them or solve the problem?
- Have you ever had a similar problem? How did you solve it?
- What do you want to know more about? (a character, event, use of a specific illustration)
- Who in the book would you like to meet? What would you ask them if you met them?
- Is there a character that reminds you of someone in your life?



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To learn more, go to www.booktrust.org or call 720.458.9889



Does your child love to draw? Have them draw a comic strip outside with chalk while you are reading!

More Ideas

- Did your child not like the ending or hoped that it would have a different outcome? Have them write an alternate ending to the story.
- Record your discussion and send it to family and friends. This is a great way to keep the conversation going the next time you see them.
- Talk to your child about what you are reading. Discuss questions they may have.
- Haven't read the story that your child just finished? Not a problem! Focusing on the questions above is a great way to hear them describe it from their own perspective.
- This discussion can happen anywhere or anytime! Find a time during the week that works best for your family.
- Independently read the book at the same time as your child. This will allow you to engage in the discussions with them!
- Have your child illustrate the story as you read and then compare!
- Make it a game! Have your child play hopscotch and then pick a card, write out a post it and put it on their favorite snack, play freeze dance and ask a new question each time they freeze!
- You don't have save questions for the end of a story! Stop in the middle or on a random page to have a discussion or ask your child to share their thinking.

Try reading and discussing books at different times or in different places.



Who we are

We are Book Trust, a national early literacy non-profit. We increase access to high quality books of choice to empower children to discover the joy and power of reading. What does that mean? Well, each month of the school year, your students will choose \$7 worth of books at absolutely no cost to you that they choose. **These books are theirs to keep, build home libraries and share with you.**



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