



OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

It is important that adults use effective questioning techniques when speaking with children. Asking numerous questions is not always a useful technique. Instead, ask fewer questions that require more thought on the child's part. Give the child time to process the question and listen to the child's answer. Being listened to strengthens a child's desire to participate. Also, by listening to the child's answers we learn more about that child and can encourage dialogue.

Open-ended questions promote discussion and require decision-making skills.

Closed-ended questions (sometimes called single-answer questions) demand few decision-making skills and are most often answered with yes or no.

| Open-ended | Closed-ended |
|--|---|
| What do you see? | What color is it? |
| How could you sort these? | Can you sort these by shape? |
| What happens to a hamburger when it is fried? | Does a hamburger change color when it is fried? |
| What are the people in the picture saying? | Is the father saying he is tired? |
| What floats in water? | Does a cork float in water? |
| How could you make the tower taller? | Can you put another block on the tower? |
| What would happen if you could fly? | Can you fly? |
| What do you think we we'll see at the park today? | Are you excited to go to the park today? |
| Can you tell me what happened in the story we just read? | Did the bear find his mom in the story? |
| Why did the squirrel climb the tree? | Did the squirrel climb up the tree? |
| What do you think will happen next in the story? | Do you think the baby bird will find some food? |
| How did the flower grow? | Did the flower grow? |