



## HELLO PARENTS,

Questions are powerful tools. Asking rich, thoughtful questions can spark young children's natural curiosity and illuminate a completely new world of possibility and insight. The right kind of questions asked in just the right way can achieve so much, including igniting children's curiosity and pushing them to think in new ways. However, what are "big" questions, and how do they encourage children to think deeply? In this newsletter, we put together activities to meet your child at their individual developmental level and stretch their thinking.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

#### HOW DO WE MAKE SOUNDS?

##### MATERIALS:

- Different baby rattles that make sounds
- Blanket

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Put a blanket on the floor and place your child on it.
- Tap your child's hands and feet together to make sounds.
- Observe as they clap their hands or feet, and comment on the sounds they make.
- Hide one rattle behind your back, shake it and see if your child can figure out where the sound is coming from.
- Give the rattle to your child to see if they can make sounds with it.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### CAN YOU MOVE THIS WAY?

##### MATERIALS:

- Box
- Different colours of construction paper
- Pen or pencil
- Glue

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Glue each side of the box with different colours of construction paper.
- Use the same colour construction paper you used on the box to write different movements for your child to follow. For example, walk around in a circle.
- Give the box to your child, let them throw it, and see what colour the box lands on. If the box lands on the blue side, read aloud the blue card and watch as your child follows direction.
- Challenge your child by asking to make up their own movements as they go.

[Click here](#) to read "Eyes, Nose, Fingers, and Toes" by Judy Hindley.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

##### MATERIALS:

- A book that your child has not read

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and start reading a new book.
- Before you turn the page, ask your child: "What do you think is going to happen next?"
- Turn the page and see if your child's guesses match the story line.
- Keep asking this question before you turn to the next page.

[Click here](#) to read "Whatever Next!" by Jill Murphy.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### HOW DO YOU THINK ANIMALS COMMUNICATE?

##### MATERIALS:

- Stuffed animals

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Have a discussion with your child about how animals communicate.
- Together, brainstorm all the different ways animals communicate with each other.
- Ask questions such as:
  - How do you think animals communicate with each other and with people?
  - How do animals communicate with people?
  - What body parts, do animals use to communicate?
- After answering the questions, let your child use their stuffed animals and act out how the animals can communicate between each other.

[Click here](#) to see how animals can communicate.

[Click here](#) to read "Just Ask" by Sonia Sotomayor.

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU MADE THE RULES AT HOME?

##### MATERIALS:

- Pen or pencil
- Paper

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Write the rules that you would want to have at home.
- Show your parents the rules you wrote, and discuss why you want to have them.
- With everybody's agreement dedicate a day where you will follow the rules you made.
- At the end of that day have a discussion with your family and see which one of those rules were wrong, right, dangerous, safe, fun, and why.

[Click here](#) to read "Rules of the House" by Mac Barnett.



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Extend your child's thinking through open-ended questions.
- Make sure to allow plenty of wait time for your child to process what you are asking.
- Let your child think about the questions and answer at their own pace.
- Ask another question or make a comment after the child answers.
- Help your child see themselves as thinkers.