



Questions to help support your child's reading

Beginner & Emerging Readers

The most important thing about reading with a child when they are just starting out is to develop an enjoyment of reading so book talk is really important. Here are some ideas:

If the child is just starting out with the book:

Spend time looking at the cover and asking questions such as –

- What can you see on the cover? Look at the pictures as well as things such as the title, author, publisher, blurb, bar code.
- What is the title? Or you could point to the title and ask them what it is.
- Can you look at the pictures on the cover and predict what you think will happen in this book? What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in our story?
- Do you think there will be a problem in this story? What might the problem be?
- What do you think this book will be about? Why do you think that?
- Who is the author / illustrator?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read or seen?
- What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
- Remember to look at the blurb, if it's there! Read it together – now we've read this, does it change what you think will happen in the book?

If the child is mid-way through reading the book:

- Could you tell me what has happened so far?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- Can you tell me the names of the characters?
- Who is this? (pointing to a picture of one of the characters)
- What's the most exciting thing that has happened up to now?
- Give me one sentence to explain how this book makes you feel.
- Are there any words that you have read for the first time / learnt?
- Have you learnt any new information?
- Where is the book set?
- If the main character lived near you, would you want to be friends with them?
- Choose a particular page, focus in on the picture – what happened on this page?

As a child finishes a book:

- Did you like this book? Why?
- How did this book end? Was it the way you thought it would end?
- If you were the author, how would you have finished the story?
- Do you think the characters will go on any more adventures together? What things might they do?
- Is there a character in this story that is like you? How?
- If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?
- Would you recommend this book? Who to / why not?
- Tell me about the best part of the book.
- Can you remember the title of this book? Was it a good title for this book? Why or why not?
- Does this book remind you of any other books you have read?
- Are there any parts of this story that repeat or you had to read more than once? Why do you think the author did this?
- Was there a problem in this story and if there was, how did it get fixed?
- Did anything sad / funny / happy happen in this story? What?
- What was the most exciting / interesting thing in the book?

Confident readers

Here are some suggestions for book talk with children who can read fluently:

1. Explain the title. Do you think it's a good title for this book?
2. What category or genre do you think it fits into? eg fantasy / comedy / horror.
3. Why do you think the author wrote this book?
4. Describe something you like about it.
5. Tell me something you dislike about it.
6. Describe the setting. Did it change during the book?
7. Can you imagine this story taking place in a different setting? Where or why not?
8. Which character do/did you like most? Why?
9. Which character do/did you like least? Why?
10. Describe one of the main characters. Would you like to meet them? What would you say to them?
11. Which part was the funniest / scariest / saddest / happiest?
12. What changes does a main character go through?
13. Describe one significant episode or event.
14. What do you think was the most important event in the novel?
15. Is/Did reading this book change you, or your views?
16. Is the plot slow or fast moving?
17. Are there any words you have come across for the first time?
18. What would you say to persuade a friend to read it or not to read it?
19. Summarise the plot in one minute.
20. What feedback would you give the author?
21. If you were the author, what would you change about the book?
22. What do you think of the ending?
23. If you were the author, would you write the same ending or change it? If so, how?
24. Imagine you wrote an extra chapter in this book / the next book in the series – what would happen?
25. Did this book remind you of any other books you have read?
26. Would you like to read any other books by this author? Do you know of any books by this author?