



Quotes from the field with tips for parents and families

“Use more open-ended questions.”

Here's how

An *open-ended question* means that the question does not require a single correct response. Open-ended questions often begin with “wh” – who, what, where, why and which. Parents and teachers can ask these kinds of questions to encourage children to think. For example, if you are looking at a painting, you might ask:

- ✓ Who do you think the man in this painting looks like?
- ✓ What is happening in this picture?
- ✓ Where do you see sunlight?
- ✓ Why do you think this man's jacket is special?
- ✓ Which way do you think the storm is moving?

Why is this important?

Learning is complex. Achieving understanding is more than reciting facts from memory. Asking open-ended questions focuses on your child's

- ✓ Understanding;
- ✓ Ability to reason; and
- ✓ Ability to apply knowledge.



Responses to open-ended questions open a window into your child's thinking and level of understanding. This helps guide your conversations with your child.