

Question Hierarchy

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Based on Linguistics Milestones, Bloom & Lahey and PLS-5

Give child time to respond to a question. Note if child is responding with a gesture, eye gaze or verbal. If child does not respond to question: Is question too hard? Does question need to be rephrased? Was question asked out of context? Does child need a visual cue?

Simple Questions

1. _____ What is this? _____ Where is (noun)? _____ Who is that? _____
2. _____ Or (do you want _____ or _____), Which one do you want? _____
3. _____ Yes-No (is this a _____), Do you want? _____, Can you? _____?, Do you? _____
4. _____ What _____ Where _____ or Who _____ doing (action + ing)
5. _____ Whose (possession – respond with possessive pronoun or 's)
6. _____ What do you do with? (function)
7. _____ What/Who is not (negation)
8. _____ How feel (e.g. happy, sad, mad, scared, rough, smooth) _____ How taste (sweet, spicy)
9. _____ How many?

Open-ended and Complex Questions

These are more complex questions in which children need to have prior knowledge and the ability to categorize information so they can retrieve an answer upon request. As a child develops the understanding of questions, build on expanding discourse with a variety of questions to assess concept knowledge. If a child does not respond appropriately to a question, he/she may understand the question, but not the concept.

1. _____ Wh or Yes-No Questions with additional critical elements which may include attributes, actions, position with or without visual cues – e.g. What is green and hops (frog), Have you ever seen a frog? Where does it live? What does it eat?
2. _____ Why/How come
3. _____ When
4. _____ What belongs/How the same _____ What doesn't belong/How different – compare categories and details
5. _____ More complex Wh questions
 - a. What is silly _____ missing _____ wrong _____
 - b. What happened? (first-next-last-response to personal events and stories)
 - c. Why happened?
 - d. What will happen next (predict outcomes)
 - e. What would you do, How would you (identify problem, determine solution)
6. _____ Are, Is, Can, Do, Does, etc. (true vs. false) – e.g. Are dogs bigger than elephants?
7. _____ Negation questions (Why/How/What/Who can't, doesn't, shouldn't)