

When, How, Why?

Why is it so cold?



In daily events or after reading a book, occasionally ask a question that begins with one of the words *when*, *how*, or *why*.

These questions will stimulate your child to think more deeply about time, processes, and reasons.



Why this is important

Asking *when*, *how*, or *why* questions will deepen the level of your child's thinking. To answer them she will need to talk about time, process, and reasons. This encourages her to give longer answers with several parts. Thinking about *how* and *why* are some of the hardest tasks we do throughout life. This early practice can give your child a pattern of successful thinking to follow and to build on as she grows older. When she answers questions during book reading, she is building her early literacy skills.

What you do

- Ask your child *when*, *how*, and *why* questions during conversation or reading. *When do we eat breakfast? How did you dig that deep hole? Why did the three bears go for a walk?*
- Give your child plenty of time to think about her answers to these challenging questions. Return to simpler questions if she struggles to answer.
- Pause after reading a page of a book together and ask one of the questions, so she can think about the story.

Another idea

Continue to ask questions that gently test your child's knowledge. Many everyday moments such as riding in the car, taking a bath, or drawing with chalk can offer opportunities for question-and-answer sessions with your child.

Let's read together!

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf
by Lois Ehlert