

Dialogic Reading – A Learning Tool

Dialogic Reading is an important method developed by researchers to get children more involved when a story is read to them. Children learn more when they participate. With **Dialogic Reading** the adult helps the child become the teller of the story. The adult becomes the listener, the questioner, and the audience for the child. Think of it simply as a child and an adult having a conversation about the book.

Dialogic Reading is based upon three techniques:

- **Asking "What" Questions:**

1. Point to the item in the book and say "What's this?" or "What's this called?".
2. Avoid questions that your child can answer with a "yes" or "no" or by pointing.
3. Repeat what your child says. Let him or her know the answer is correct by repeating it back: "Yes, that's a cow."

- **Expand** on what your child says:

1. Keep expansion short and simple.
2. Make sure to build on your child's phrases just a little so that your child is able to imitate what you've said. Add, "Yes, you're right! That's a truck, a yellow dump truck."
3. Continue the conversation by following the answers with questions. "What is that truck doing?" "Yes, it looks like he is dumping dirt into the hole."

- **Ask Open-Ended Questions:**

1. Open-ended questions do not have right or wrong answers and send the message, "I want to know what you think."
2. Open-ended questions require more thought to answer and encourage your child to use his or her imagination and more words. "What do you see on this page?" "What's happening here?"
3. Ask your child to say more, "What else do you see?" Open-ended questions allow children to say whatever they're thinking which often leads to interesting conversations.

Other questions could be:

- "What else do you see?" "Tell me about." and "What if." and "I wonder how." or "How did that happen?" or "What do you think?"
- If a child doesn't know what to say about a picture, you may need to help by answering the question yourself, "I think he may be..."