

# WH Questions

## (Who, What, Where, When, Why)

WH questions are very important as they allow us to learn more about ourselves and the world. WH questions allows us to participate in conversations and share our thoughts and feelings.

### Tips for practicing WH questions

- **When practicing using WH questions focus on only one question at a time. Start with the least complex question type (what) and work your way to the most complex question type (why).** Make sure your child understands 'what' questions before you start to work on 'who' questions. Once they understand 'who' questions, you can progress on to 'where' questions and then on to 'when.' If your child understands those question types and is ready for a more complex question, move on to 'why.'
- **Give your child cues to help then use WH questions.** Show your child a picture of a boy wearing a hat or point to your own hat you have on and ask: "What do you wear on your head?"
- **If your child has difficulty answering the questions, give your child the answer and then repeat the question to them again.**
- **If your child struggles with answering WH questions, give your child two choices and see if they can pick the correct answer.** *Who is wearing the hat? Is the boy wearing the hat or is the puppy wearing the hat?*
- **If your child can not verbally state the answer, see if they can point to the correct answer (if you are looking at a picture) and then model the answer for them.** *Who is wearing the jacket? The boy is wearing the jacket.*
- **Start with asking your child only one type of question per situation.** For example: While reading a book, only ask 'what' questions as you go along, if that is the question type your child is working on. Do the same with 'who,' 'where,' 'when' and 'why.'
- **Once your child can use each type of question by itself, you can use a combination of the questions in a situation.** When reading a story you can now ask different types of questions such as: *What? Who?, Where? When? Why?*



### Ideas for practicing WH questions

- **While reading a story together, ask questions about what is happening.** *What is the character doing? Who is that? Where did the character go? When will he/she come back?*
- **While reading, ask your child questions about themselves that relate to the story.** *The boy went to the library. Where did you go today? She is packing her backpack, what do you do when you pack your backpack?*

- **After reading a story, ask questions to increase reading comprehension.** *What happened when the boy forgot his toy? Why was he/she happy? When did they meet their friend? How did they fix their toy?*
- **Incorporate WH questions into everyday conversation and play.** *What did you make in art class? What did you see in show and tell today? Who did you play with at recess today? What book did you get from the library? Why is Teddy sad? When is the train leaving the station? Where is the truck going?*
- **Make WH books together.** Have your child create a book about a family vacation, shopping trip, play date, holiday, party, etc. Have them draw pictures or cut out pictures for the book. Ask your child WH questions about what they decided to write about. Ask questions such as: *What was the party for? When was the party? Who was at the party? Why were there presents at the party? Where was the party?*
- **Question toss:** Ask your child a question and throw a ball to them. When your child catches the ball they will then answer the questions and ask a related follow-up question and throw the ball back to you. Repeat for however long you wish. Ex: *You: When is the birthday party? Child: Saturday. What kind of cake will we eat?*
- **Show and tell:** Have your child pick a favourite item (toy, stuffed animal, etc.). Ask your child questions about the item. Then, you pick a favourite item of your own (picture, magazine, movie, etc.) and have your child ask you questions about it. This activity will practice both their formulation of WH questions and responses to WH questions.

