

How to simplify Blank's questions

If a child is finding it difficult to move onto the next level of Blank's questions, there are ways of making questions at the next level simpler.

(Note: you can do the opposite to extend questions and challenge language)

1) Make questions more concrete.

- Abstract: "How do you think daddy bear felt when baby bear wouldn't give him a bed-time kiss?"/ Concrete: "Look at daddy bear's face. What is he doing?"
- Abstract: "Why did you throw all your books on the floor? What should you do now?"/ Concrete: "Where are the books? Where do the books go? Let's put them away."

2) Relate questions to personal experiences.

- Simplify a question such as "Why do you think fire fighters wear such big heavy coats?" to "What does it feel like when you stand close to a fire?"
- "What does mummy say when you don't finish your jobs? What will your teacher say if you don't finish your homework?"

3) Ask questions about very recent events or objects that are present.

- Instead of asking "what do you think you will do at playgroup tomorrow?" ask "what did you play with today?" or "what are you playing with now?"

4) Use familiar vocabulary when asking questions.

- Instead of "what is the function of a knife?", try "what can you do with a knife?"
- Offer a choice. "Is this a violin or a guitar?" instead of "what instrument is this?"

5) For older children, keep using those higher-order thinking questions (level 3 and 4)

Instead of telling your child how to solve a problem, ask questions to help them think through it on their own.

Reference: Julie Miller (Speech Pathologist – blog: Work for Me Homemaking.)

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