

How to do Interactive Reading

Story time is a great way to connect with your child and enjoy some quality time together and it can also help your child's language develop. As teachers, parents and caregivers we know how important it is to read with young children to help them prepare for school. **Interactive Reading** has four steps and the best way to remember how to do **Interactive Reading** is to think of the word **PEER**. The letters in the word **PEER** stand for the way you ask questions and reply to your child when doing **Interactive Reading**.

1. The first step is to **PROMPT** your child to say something about the book or page.

HOW? Ask your child a question or invite your child to talk about something on the page or something in the story.

WHY? Prompting your child will focus their attention on the book, help them to understand the story and help them to learn new words.

EXAMPLE: Point to something in the picture, like the witch in this picture, and ask, **What is that?**

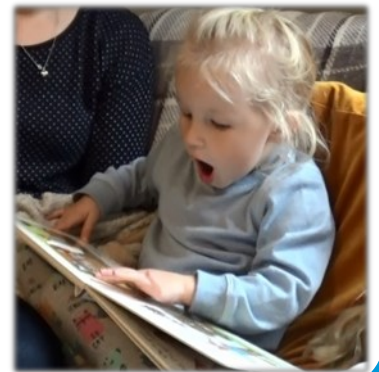


2. The second step is to **Evaluate** your child's response

HOW? Think about what your child just said. Was the answer correct? If it was correct let your child know. If your child gave the wrong answer, gently provide the correct answer.

WHY? Praising your child will encourage them to talk and by gently correcting your child if they are wrong you will be helping them to learn new language.

EXAMPLE: **That's right** or **it looks like a wizard but we call it a witch**



3. The third step is to **EXPAND** what your child said

HOW? Add a few words to your child's answer by rephrasing or adding a little more detail to it.

WHY? Expanding will help to your child learn new words and will encourage your child to say a little more than he or she would normally.

EXAMPLE: **It's a witch flying on a broomstick.**



4. The last step is to ask your child to **REPEAT** the new information and language.

HOW? Ask your child to repeat your expanded or corrected answer

WHY? This will encourage your child to use the new language you added and will help them learn new words

EXAMPLE: **Can you say that? OR what is it again? OR can you say it's a witch flying on a broomstick?**



How to prompt

A really important part of **Interactive Reading** is prompting your child and asking them questions. There are a few different kinds of questions you can use to get your child involved. The word **CROWD** is a great way to remember the different kinds of questions to use in **Interactive Reading**. The letters in the word **CROWD** stand for different questions you can use when doing **Interactive Reading**.

COMPLETION

HOW? Allow your child to finish off your sentence with a well known word or phrase from the book. This kind of prompt works really well in rhyming and repetitive books.

WHY? This encourages your child to listen to and use the language in the book.

EXAMPLE: The witch had a cat and a very long _____ (hat).



RECALL

HOW? Ask your child about what happens in the story. You can ask them about the book after you've read it or you can ask them about what happened on a page that's just been read.

WHY? This kind of question helps the child to understand the story and encourages the child to recall the details of the story. This kind of question can require more advanced language skills, so they work really well with older children but you can try at any age!

EXAMPLES: What happens when all the animals get onto the broom?



OPEN ENDED

HOW? Ask your child what is happening in the pictures

WHY? This kind of question gives your child the chance to use language and let's your child practice forming their own sentences.

EXAMPLES: You can directly ask your child: 'Tell me what's happening in this picture' OR 'what's going on in this picture?'

Or you can wonder about the picture with them and let them offer an answer if they wish:

'I wonder what's going on in this picture'.



WH QUESTIONS

HOW? Ask your child questions about the story or pictures which start with 'who, what, where, why, when and how'. You can point to something in the book and ask your child to name the object or the action.

WHY? These questions help to teach your child new words by repeating words and objects from the book

EXAMPLE: What is coming out of the dragon's nose?



DISTANCING

HOW? Ask your child questions that link something in the story to your child's own life.

WHY? These questions will help your child make connections between books and their life. Distancing questions are a great way for your child to practice their conversation skills. This kind of question can require more advanced language skills, so they work really well with older children but you can try at any age!

EXAMPLE: Do you remember when we went to the Halloween party?
What did everyone dress up as?



- * If you have time, look through a book before you read it with your child for the first time.
- * The first time you read a book together, make sure that you point out the names of things your child may not know.
- * Use **PEER** to remember the steps in **Interactive Reading**
- * Use **CROWD** to remember the different types of questions or prompts
- * Try to use the **PEER** technique on each page but don't forget to have fun and enjoy the story as well.
- * You can read as much or as little of the written text on each page as you like.
- * Every time you read the story, try to get your child to give more detailed answers as this will help to improve their vocabulary and language skills.
- * Praise and encourage: Tell your child when he or she is doing well by saying things like: "Good talking!" or "That's right. Well done!" or "you're really good at this!"



And most of all have fun!