

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 **PROB**. The letters in the word **PROB** stand for the way you ask questions and reply to your child when doing **Interactive Reading**

1. The first step is to **PAUSE** at each page turn to let your child talk first

HOW? At each page turn, stop and give your child 10 seconds to talk first. If your child doesn't start a conversation after 10 seconds, skip to asking an open question (see below)

WHY? This will give your child the opportunity to choose a topic that interests them. If they chose the topic of conversation they are more likely to be attentive and interested in the conversation and may talk more.



2. The second step is to **RESPOND** to what your child said or pointed to

HOW? Comment on, describe or label what your child has shown interest in. You can even imitate exactly what they said.

WHY? By being responsive and following your child's interests you increase the chances that your child will be interested in talking about the book and so they may talk more.

EXAMPLE: **That's right** or **Ooh it's a cow**



3. The third step is to ask your child an **OPEN QUESTION** about their topic of interest

HOW? Ask your child an open question which is related to your child's chosen topic to encourage them to say more

WHY? This will encourage your child continue the conversation and to say more on their chosen topic. This gives them the opportunity to use new words and more complex language

EXAMPLE: **What do think will happen to Winnie Witch now?**



4. The last step is to **BOOST** what your child says

HOW? Add a few words to what your child said by rephrasing or adding a little more information 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: If your child says, **witch** you could say, **Yes, that's right she's called Winnie the Witch. You dressed up as a witch last year for Halloween.**



How to Ask Open Questions

A really important part of **Interactive Reading** is asking your child **open questions** related to their topic of interest. Many questions we ask children are closed questions which can be answered with one word or by pointing. **Open questions** are a bit different and encourage your child to use more language to properly answer the question. Open Questions often start with, why, what, how, tell me and I wonder. Here are examples of a few different kinds of **open questions** you could use when doing **Interactive Reading**.

1. Why Questions

Why questions are a great way to get your child talking about the story.

Examples of how to start a why question:

Why do you think...

Why is the....

Why does s/he



2. Tell Me Prompts

Tell me prompts are an easy way to ask your child to say more about what interests them on the page or in the book.

Examples of how to start a tell me prompt:

Tell me more about....

Tell me more about this picture

Tell me what's happening in this picture



3. What Questions

What questions are a great way to get your child using language to share their thoughts and opinions about the book or a picture.

Examples of how to start a what question:

What do you think...

What is happening...

What if...



4. How Questions

How questions will get your child talking and using language to explain the story in more detail

Examples of how to start a how question:

How does...

How do you know...?

How can...?



5. I wonder prompts

I wonder prompts are an easy way to get your child to say more about what interests them on the page or in the book.

Examples of how to start an I wonder prompt:

I wonder if...

I wonder what's happening in this picture...

I wonder what...



Remember! An **OPEN QUESTION** cannot be answered with one word, yes and no or by pointing!

These are NOT open questions:

What colour is the cauldron?

Who is flying the broom?

Where is the witch?

Do you like the cat or the dog?



- * 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 **PROB** to remember the steps of **Interactive Reading**
- * Try to use **OPEN QUESTIONS**
- * Try to use the **PROB** 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!

