

How to modify story books

To promote answering “WH” questions



Dear Parents,

Many of you have heard us mention that your child will be working on answering “wh” questions. I wanted to give you some tips to help you work on this goal at home.

In speech and language therapy, our goal is to teach your child in a smaller group setting, the skill of how to answer a question. Many children do not understand the concept of replying to a question with a response...either verbally or with a picture response. Here is a snapshot of the progression of teaching kids how to answer questions:

1. Provide picture choices (this may be one picture or may be 5 pictures to choose from). Then ask a simple “what” question.
 - * For example: give him/her a few picture choices of clothing items and ask...What do you wear on your head?
 - *If your child needs assistance to find the correct picture, guide his/her hand to the correct picture and say “Hat”.
 - * Then repeat the question and point to the picture, waiting patiently for your child to give you the correct picture (you may want to hold your hand out so he/she knows to give you the picture).
 - *gradually you will be able to just ask the question and he/she will give you the picture.
2. Eventually, you will ask your child a question without any picture cues.
3. The next level of complexity is you read a short passage (1-2) sentences from a book. Then ask your child a question about that passage. This step may require a few picture choices to help your child remember. This is the step where modifying a book will help your child. For example, if you are reading the story “Goldilocks and the 3 Bears”, print off pictures of a mamma bear, papa bear, baby bear, chairs, bed, etc. And use these pictures as you ask your child questions about the book. As he/she improves, ask a question without picture choices after reading 1-2 sentences from a book.

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4. The next level of complexity is to ask your child questions about each page of a story book with or without using picture choices...depending on his/her ability.
5. Finally, the most complex level is to read your child an entire story and then asking comprehension questions at the end of the story. It may be a time to use those pictures, if you think it will help...or you don't have to. It depends on your child

As you can see, there is a progression of difficulty when teaching children how to answer questions . If you are able to assist your child at home, learning to enjoy a story and answer a question or questions about a story, he/she will grow to love reading.

I have included a few pictures for you to use with the Goldilocks story. If your child is at the level where he/she needs pictures to assist them in answering questions, my suggestion is to print off pictures from clipart that would go with whatever story you have at home. Keep the pictures in a Ziplock bag and keep them with your story. Then you will have easy access to use the pictures when and if you need them.

I hope you found this information helpful.

& Miss Cheryl 316-5481

