

# Asking Questions

Children who have a language delay often have difficulty asking and answering questions. Asking questions is not just about finding the right words but is also about the desire to know more about other people and the big wide world.

Asking questions is important for

- understanding the world
- taking control
- decreasing anxiety
- making friends

In order to help you child learn how to ask questions it is important to first emphasise that we don't always know what another person is thinking or what is going to happen next.

Try these leading statements:

- I wonder what ....
- Do you think we should ....
- Why do you think ....
- I'd like to know ...

These intriguing statements are not for your child to answer, but are simply to get them thinking about the importance of asking questions. Always answer these questions for your child.

Only ask 1 question for every 5 comments - so make it a good one!

Wait (count to five) ...but then always answer questions if your child is unable to.

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# Asking Questions

## Key-word Signs

Using signs aids understanding by giving your child a visual cue. Remember to get your child's attention before you speak to them.

- Always say the word you are signing
- Only sign key-words
- Use signs all the time



**WHAT?** - Extend dominant index finger, palm away from body. Move formation at wrist from side to side, twice, at mid-chest height.



**WHERE?** - Open both hands and simultaneously move each hand from side to side, twice.



**WHEN?** - Place open dominant hand, fingers spread, with tip of little finger on same side cheek. Alternately place all fingertips quickly on to cheek, twice.



**WHO?** - Extend dominant index finger, palm facing body. Move hand in small forward circles.

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