



Having a Conversation about the Pictures in a Book

Dialogic Reading Goals

- Encourage children to talk about the pictures in books to develop vocabulary and comprehension.
- Follow your child's lead to encourage language.
- Enable children to be active participants in sharing books.

Basic technique of dialogic reading involves:

Prompt

Evaluate

Expand

Repeat

Examples of prompts to start conversations are:

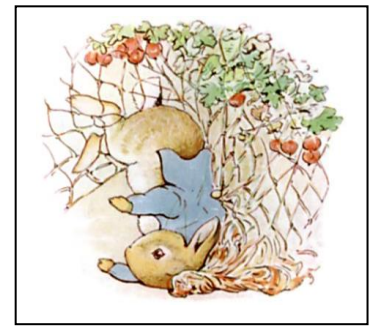
Completion

Recall

Open-ended

Wh-questions

Distancing



The examples below relate to these pages from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Example of Basic Technique

- **Prompt:** Ask a question. "What animal is this?"
- Leave some time for your child to respond--five seconds or more if needed.
- **Evaluate:** "Yes, that's right. It's a rabbit."
- Help your child as needed. If child doesn't answer, then...
- Give answer and child repeats. "Rabbit."
- **Expand:** Add more information. "A rabbit looking at a bird, maybe a sparrow."
- **Repeat:** Allow your child to repeat what you said. "What is the rabbit doing?"
- Continue to prompt, evaluate, repeat, and expand on what your child says.
- Follow your child's interests.

Examples of Prompts to Use

Completion (child fills in word or words)

- I think the rabbit is...
- Peter is eating...
- Peter is caught in the...

Recall (child remembers what has happened)

- What did Peter do?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Why do you think Peter feels sad?

Open-ended (child describes what is happening)

- Tell me what you see on this page.
- What do you think is going on here?
- What kind of plants are growing in the garden?

Wh questions (who, what, when, why)

- What do you think?
- What else do you see?
- Why is Peter in the garden?

Distancing (relate picture to child's experience)

- When have you . . . ?
- Remember when . . . ? Tell me about it.
- When have you felt that way?

A Book Picture Walk is another technique to use with preschool children.

A picture walk encourages children to look at the pictures in a book and to talk about what they see *before* reading the story. You will ask questions to encourage your child to talk about the pictures, make predictions, and share ideas about what is happening.

1. When selecting a book, look for books that have simple, colorful illustrations that your child can relate to. It is helpful to use books that have a plot or story.
2. Look at the cover of the book together. Ask general questions such as:
“What do you see?”
“What do you think this book will be about?”
“What do you think will happen next?”
3. Turn each page and discuss the pictures. You can use many of the prompts that you use in dialogic reading to encourage your child to talk. Relate what is happening in the pictures to your child’s experiences. This helps develop comprehension.
4. Upon completing the picture walk, ask your child what happened in the story. Ask your child: Was what he predicted based on what he said when looking at the pictures the same as what the author wrote or different?
5. The picture walk encourages your child to develop important pre-readings skills and strategies such as:
 - Making predictions
 - Analyzing characters
 - Understanding the setting
 - Making connections to child’s experiences and to what they know

Sharing Books with Young Children



The way you talk with a child as you share books together makes a difference in being ready to learn how to read.

There are many ways to read books to children. You can share the same book in different ways each time you read it.

