



## Encouraging Conversation

I Wonder Why...?

**Beginner:** Talk about your daily tasks as you complete them.

**[Tip]:** “I’m putting on your socks. Next let’s put your shirt over your head and stick your arms through.”

**Intermediate:** Ask questions about things you do together. Encourage them to answer in words or sentences.

**[Tip]:** What are we doing today? ...tomorrow? ...yesterday?

**Experienced:** Ask questions that encourage creative thinking and imagination. Avoid questions that lead to “yes” and “no” answers.

**[Tip]:** Why do cats have whiskers? Why do leaves fall from trees? Why is there a light in the fridge?

**Why is this important?** Vocabulary supports reading skills. Children who are encouraged to speak about things at an early age through questions are better equipped to understand the world around them.

**Reference:** Song, S., Su, M., Kang, C., Liu, H., Zhang, Y., McBride-Chang, C., Tardif, T., Li, H., Liang, W., Zhang, Z., & Shu, H. (2014). Tracing children’s vocabulary development from preschool through the school-age years: An 8-year longitudinal study. *Developmental Science*, 18(1), 119-131. <https://www.doi.org/10.1111/desc.12190>