Asking open-ended questions helps your children learn new words, use their problem-solving skills, and learn to express themselves.

Open-ended questions are questions that can’t be answered with one word like “yes” or “no.” They are answered with a sentence or two.

### Try This At Home

**Turn simple questions into open-ended questions.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instead of these simple questions,</th>
<th>Try these open-ended questions.</th>
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</table>
| Did you like the story?           | What was your favorite part of the story?  
                                 | Why did you like that part?               |
|                                   | How did the story make you feel? Which parts made you feel that way? |
| Do you like apples?                | Why do you like apples?  
                                 | Tell me what you know about how apples grow. |

**Ask a handful of open-ended questions each day.**

Ask them anytime: while reading, talking about what happened during the day, or making dinner together.

**Listening to what your children say is just as important as asking questions.**

After asking a question:

- give your children time to think of an answer,
- let them answer without interrupting, and
- respond to their answer and keep the conversation going until they show you they are ready to move on.

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**Gowa: Teachable Moments for Apache Children**

This program provides free early literacy materials, activities, and events to San Carlos Apache families with children ages 0 – 6.

Learn more: [https://extension.arizona.edu/gowa](https://extension.arizona.edu/gowa) or email GowaTeachableMoments@arizona.edu

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