### Speech Pathology

# **Answering questions**

When we answer questions, we share information about what we know and have experienced. Responding to questions is important for interacting with others.

To help children answer questions, you can:

Model how to answer questions in your own talking, and Give children a choice question that shows two possible ways to answer.

## **Play** with questions: Answer questions in your play together







### **Play...**then pack away

Pack away toys together when you've finished playing. Ask *where* the toys belong, and show how to answer.

> You: *Where* do the trains go? Child: (pointing) You: In the basket.

### At home....cooking

Decorate a cake or biscuits together. Ask a question about *what* to put on the cake, and give two options for the answer.

> You: *What* should we put on the cake next? (pause) Will we put on *strawberries* or *kiwifruit*?

### Out and about...getting ready

Get ready to go out for the day. Ask a question, and give two answers for your child to choose between.

You: *What* shoes will we wear to the park? (*pause*) Sandals or boots?

Child: Boots.



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# **Answering questions**

# **Read** with questions: Visit the library and borrow some books

Where's Spot? by Eric Hill Sunshine by Jan Ormerod Belinda by Pamela Allen

# Words for answering questions: Use questions in your day

Children can answer easier and then harder questions as they grow and learn.

Easier:	What is that? Who is it? What are they doing?
Harder:	What happened? Where did you go? How are these different?
Even harder:	What happens next? What should I do? Which one is not?
Hardest:	What happens if? Why? How can we tell?

## Learn about answering questions: Ways to help language grow

#### When you model how to answer questions in your own talking, you are:

- Helping the answers to make sense to children, and
- Helping them to answer questions.

#### When you give children two possible ways to answer a question, you are:

- Showing how questions can be answered, and
- Giving children chances to practice answering questions.

Children do not need to repeat words after you. The more often children hear answers to questions, the more likely they will understand responses and use them in their own talking.

#### Speech pathology key terms: responding to guestions, modelling, binary choice.

Health Western NSW