

LANGUAGE: QUESTIONING SKILLS

DID YOU KNOW?

(FROM SUPER DUPER PUBLICATIONS)

- Children follow a developmental sequence while learning to process and answer “WH” questions. “What” is the earliest question form mastered, followed by “Who” and “Where”, and finally by “When” and “Why”.
- Children often have difficulty understanding the meaning of “WH” questions. For example, they may answer “When” questions incorrectly because they don’t understand the meaning of the “When” concept.
 - Ex: The teacher asks, “When do you take a bath?” and the student answers, “In the bathtub”.
- Cues (hints) often help children answer “WH” questions. Here are some examples of types of cues used:
 - VISUAL CUES include showing the child photos, illustrations, or actual objects.
 - GESTURAL CUES include pointing to pictures or objects. In addition, a teacher may mimic actions in order to give a hint. Ex: The teacher may ask, “What do you do with a fork?” The teacher could mimic picking up food from a plate and placing it in his/her mouth.
 - MULTIPLE ANSWER CUES narrow the correct answer choices for the child, helping the child to focus. Ex: The teacher may say, “What do you wear on your feet...shoes or mittens?”
- Remember, sometimes a child needs extra time to respond to a question. He/she may know the answer, but has difficulty processing the actual question.