

INFERENCE QUESTIONS

Inference questions require a child to show a deeper understanding. Some people call this 'reading between the lines'. In other words, it is about using clues from the text to show they know what is **suggested** by the writer. Here are some examples you can use:

- * What do you think this story will be about? What makes you think that?
- * What do you think will happen next?
- * Why do you think he/she (the character) does that?
- * How do you think the character was feeling? How do you know?
- * Do you think we are meant to like/dislike this character? How do you know?
- * Did any of the characters go through a change in this book? Did any of them learn anything? How do you know?
- * Do you think it is a nice/horrible place from the way it is described? Which words helped you to decide?
- * Does this story have a moral or teach us anything?
- * Is the author trying to say anything important in this book? What are the important ideas/themes? (Y5/6 children)

AND FINALLY.....

You should not stop reading with your child just because they have moved from Infants to Juniors or because they appear to be a strong reader. Your involvement in their reading is still vital right up until Year 6. Even if your child is a very good reader, they will still need your guidance and encouragement if they are to achieve their potential.

Reading is an essential habit that will benefit your child for the rest of their lives. It is essential you stay involved.

FURTHER ADVICE

If you have any further questions, need more advice, or if you have any concerns regarding your child's reading, put a note in their Reading Diary or make an appointment to see your child's teacher. We are always pleased to see you!

**DEVONSHIRE
JUNIOR
SCHOOL** 

READING

A guide for parents

WHY IS READING AT HOME IMPORTANT?

Research shows that reading with your child is the single most important thing you can do to help their education. Helping your child to become an independent reader is vital: much of what we learn comes through text, so if we can read, we can learn.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO HELP MY CHILD READ?

- ◆ It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it every day. About 20 minutes is about right. Pick a quiet time.
- ◆ Show that you enjoy and value reading. Your attitude to reading will influence theirs, so don't present reading as a chore or a nuisance.
- ◆ Any family member or family friend can help your child to read, so if you can't, then perhaps grandparents, auntie, uncle or even older brothers and sisters can help.
- ◆ Show that you value your child's reading by signing their Reading Diary whenever they read to you. You can also let your child's teacher know how well your child is doing by making a brief comment from time to time—perhaps once a week. Children love getting good comments in their diary—it inspires them to read more. You can also comment on any difficulties they might have had.

- ◆ Read a variety of texts. Children love stories, but they also enjoy information books, poetry, comics, magazines etc. Discuss the pictures as well as the words.
- ◆ Give your child the confidence to keep going when they find reading tricky. Praise often, especially when they have tried hard with words that challenge them. If they are 'stuck' don't interrupt immediately—allow time for self-correction. Encourage them to break down the word using letter sounds, not alphabet names. However, there is nothing wrong with telling children a few words so that the flow of the text can be maintained.
- ◆ In addition to your child's school reading book, read dual language books if English isn't your family's first language—you can talk about books and stories (and develop a love for them) in any language.

ASK QUESTIONS

- ◆ Remember that reading isn't just about being able to read the words -it's just as important for your child to understand what they have read. You will know if they understand by discussing the text and asking questions. Select what you think is appropriate at the time—use carefully as your child will not want to feel that they are being tested .

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

Here are some general questions that require simple responses. Your child will need to retrieve information, summarise or give a personal opinion.

- * Why did you choose this book?
- * Remind me what has happened so far?
- * Where is the story set?
- * Who are the main characters?
- * Which is your favourite character? Why?
- * Was there a problem in this book? How was it solved?
- * Was there anything you didn't like about this book?
- * What do you think ——— (new word) means?
- * Have you learnt any new facts from this book?
- * What's the most amazing fact you've learned from this book?
- * What did you like about this book?
- * Who else do you think might enjoy this book? Why?
- * Would you like to read more books like this?
- * What was your favourite illustration/part of the book?