

How to prompt children

There are five types of prompts that are used in dialogic reading to begin PEER sequences. You can remember these prompts with the word CROWD.

- **Completion prompts**

Leave a blank at the end of a sentence and get the child to fill it in. These are typically used in books with rhyme or books with repetitive phrases. This builds phonemic awareness (hearing the sound of words) as well as expands vocabulary.

- **Recall prompts**

These are questions about what happened in a book a child has already read. Recall prompts help children in understanding a story and in recalling events. Recall prompts are used not only at the end of a book, but also at the beginnings when a child has been read that book before.

- **Open-ended prompts**

These prompts focus on the pictures in books. They work best for books that have rich, detailed illustrations. For example, you might say, “Tell me what’s happening in this picture.” Open-ended prompts help children increase their expressive fluency and notice details.

- **wh-prompts**

These prompts usually begin with what, where, when, why, and how questions. Like open-ended prompts, wh- prompts focus on the pictures in books. For example, you might say, “What’s the name of this?” while pointing to an object in the book. wh- questions teach children new vocabulary and prompt thinking about the story.

- **Distancing prompts**

These ask children to relate pictures or words in the book they are reading to their own lives. Distancing prompts help children form a bridge between books and the real world. They help with verbal fluency, conversation, and narrative skills. For example, while looking at a book with a picture of animals on a farm, you might say, “Remember when we went to the animal park? Which of these animals did we see there?”