



Expanding on Your Child's Answers

1. **Read the book** before you read it with your child, when possible.
2. **Read the book with your child**, doing most of the talking yourself and making sure that you point out the names of things your child may not know.
3. **Read the book again**, only do the following for each of the pictures/objects you named when you and your child read the book the first time:

PROMPT Encourage your child to name objects and talk about the book. Asking “who, what, when, why, or how” questions are great prompts. For example, ask “Look at the illustration. What do we call this?” Avoid questions that your child can answer with yes or no (e.g., Is that a dog?) or just pointing (e.g., Where’s the dog?).

EVALUATE When you evaluate and answer you provide a statement that positively reinforces correct answers or corrects a child’s incorrect answers. For example (e.g. Child correctly answers a question by calling an animal a bear) “Yes, you are right. That is a bear.” (e.g. Child incorrectly calls the bear a dog) “You’re right! That is an animal, but we call that a bear.”

EXPAND Repeat what the child says and give additional information. For example you might say, “Yes, you are right. That is a bear. We call it a Polar Bear.”

REPEAT Have your child repeat what was learned to solidify their understanding. For example, “Yes, you are right. That is a bear. We call it a Polar Bear. Now you say ‘Polar Bear.’”

Helpful Hints

—Follow your child’s interests. If your child shows an interest in a picture either by talking or pointing to it, follow it up immediately by asking questions to let your child talk.

—Praise and encourage! Tell your child when he or she is doing well! Mention how you enjoy sharing the story!

—Have fun! Try to keep your reading times fun and like a game. One way to do this is to switch between asking questions and just plain reading. You don’t want to ask so many questions that you lose the meaning of the story.