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For all your child's languages

Dialogic Reading CROWD

Adapted from Whitehurst et al (1994)

What to do	What to say?	Why do it?
Completion	Useful for books that rhyme/ have a phrase that's repeated. Once your child is familiar with the story, you can say: <i>Little piggy, little piggy</i> and wait for them to say <i>let me come in</i> .	It encourages your child to listen, attend, and use language.
Recall	Talk about what happens in the story- you can do this when you come to the end of the book or you can do it in the car on the way to school or as you're about to start reading the book. It depends on your child's age. You can talk about what the characters did- I like to keep this authentic and not testing so I might say things like <i>I can't remember how Little Red Riding Hood was saved</i> . And then pause.	This builds your child's sense of a story and its components. It also encourages them to pay attention to details.
Open-ended questions	Saying things like <i>Tell me what's going on in this picture</i> .	This gives your child an opportunity to use their language in conversation.
Wh- prompts	This involves pointing to something in a picture and asking <i>What's that called?/ What does George use it for? What colour is it?</i>	This encourages your child to use their language and it also helps to build vocabulary by focusing not just on the name of objects but on features such as colour, shape, number, location, and so on.
Distancing	My little girl loves to ask questions like <i>If you were in Hogwarts, what house would you like to be in? If you had to marry Malfoy or Snape, who would you pick? Who is your least favourite person?</i> The idea here is that you help your child link the story to their own lives. Again, your question will depend on their age and interests.	You can have wonderful conversations about all sorts of things using this technique. It encourages your child to use their language and imagination.