



Ready4K

# Ask AWAY!



*Questions to Get Kids  
Talking about School*

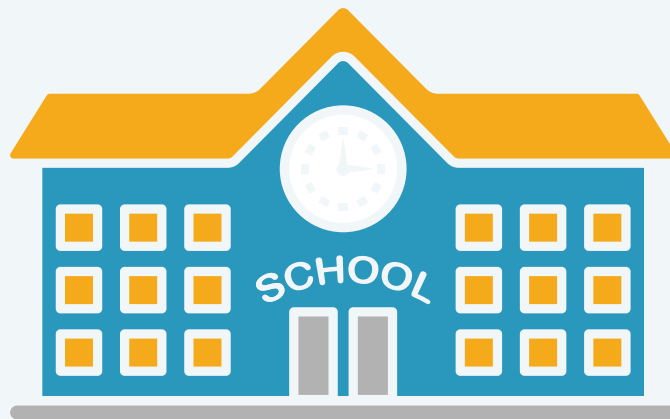
Back-to-school time is a great time to get talking! Ask about your child's day, their feelings, their friends.

Your questions let your child know that their experiences are important. And your child's answers will help you know what they're thinking and feeling about school.

# FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD

School takes lots of concentration and energy. You might find your child is less excited to answer your questions right after their school day ends. Try asking questions at different times of day. Is your child more excited to answer your questions before bed? In the car or bus? At mealtime?

Once you have a sense of when they feel like talking, you can get into a routine. You might ask about school each afternoon as they unpack their backpack.



# TRY DIFFERENT SPARKS

Sometimes just asking a question isn't quite enough to spark an answer. Try some of these tricks to get things started:

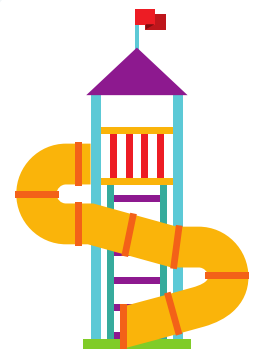


## Start with schoolwork

If your child brought writing, a worksheet, or art home from school, take it out and ask about it. Try: "It looks like you made this at school. Can you tell me about it? How did you do it? Did your friends make one too? What are some of the other things you made or did in school today?"

## You share first

Try telling about a memory you have from school. You might describe your playground or lunchroom. You might describe your desk or objects in your classroom. Then ask, "Does your room look like that? What things are in your classroom? Where is your favorite spot in the room?"



## Ask with art

Some kids have an easier time sharing through art, movement, or music. You might create a routine where you and your child draw about your day. You can take turns asking about each other's creations. Or, invite your child to do a move that captures how they felt about their day. Mention what you notice: "Wow, that was a fast move! Did you feel excited at school? How did you feel?"



## Bring out the books

Stories and books can be great for sparking back-to-school conversations. As you read, pause to notice things and ask. For example, "Oh look! They are singing! Do you sing in school? What's the most fun thing that happened in school today?" Notice how the characters are feeling and ask about that too. For example, "Oh, I think he's feeling nervous. Have you ever felt that way in school? What was happening when you got that feeling?"



## Try, try, try

Sometimes all it takes is the right question to really get your child talking. It's great to ask questions that can't just be answered in one word. Here are some questions to try. You might ask a different one each day. Or, if you find a question that really works, ask it each day.



- What was the best part of your day? Why was it great?
- What was the hardest part of your day? Why was it hard?
- What's one fun thing that happened today?
- What's one thing you wish had happened at school today?
- Who did you play with today? What do they like to play?
- What did kids play on the playground? What did you play on the playground?
- Did the teacher read a story today? What was it about?
- Did anything surprise you about school?
- What's different about school this year? What's the same?
- Can you show me something you learned or did today?
- Did anything loud happen at school?
- Did anything really quiet happen at school?
- Did anything funny happen at school today?
- Who did you sit next to at lunch? What did you talk about?
- What are some of the rules at school? What do you think of those rules? Would you change any? Why?
- What's something you are excited to learn or do at school tomorrow?

# And... ASK THE TEACHER

Your child's teacher is there for you, too. It's always okay to reach out with questions or things you'd like to share about your child. Start by asking the teacher the best way to reach out. Try: "What's the best way for me to reach out to you with any questions? Should I email, text, call? What time of day is best for reaching out to you?"

To start things off you might ask: "What are some things my child will be learning at the start of school? How can I support that learning at home?"

You know your child best and can share things you notice, too. For example, "My child has seemed very quiet and a little nervous in the morning. Have you noticed this too? Does it last throughout the day? What seems to help?"

Your insights will help the teacher notice and respond to your child!

