

Six Questions That Keep Children Thinking

Use with any story, picture, everyday problem, or surprising idea.

1

What do you notice?

Begin with what the child sees, hears, remembers, or recognizes.

2

What seems surprising or funny?

A laugh or a mismatch can be the beginning of real attention.

3

What do you think is happening?

Invite an idea before offering an explanation.

4

What clues helped you decide?

Let the child connect the answer to something observable.

5

Could there be another explanation?

More than one possibility can lead to a richer conversation.

6

What might happen next?

Prediction turns the child from a listener into a participant.

The most useful follow-up is simple: Why?

Listen before correcting. A funny answer can create connection. A mistaken answer can open discovery. The goal is not to make every answer correct - it is to help the child explain, compare, and keep thinking.

A Professor ANT reading rhythm

READ

Keep momentum

PAUSE

Leave room

LISTEN

Hear the idea

BUILD

Connect it to life