

High Level Questions that Support Meaningful Responses

Possible Questions

Dramatic Play Area

- Tell me about your play. – Tell me about what you are doing/playing.
- Tell me about what happened.
- Baby is _____. How can we help baby? (crying, hungry, sleepy)
- How do you think he feels? Why?
- What would happen if we _____?
- How do we make _____?

Block Area

- How many blocks did you use?
- Tell me about this.
- How did you build this?
- Tell me about what happened. Why?
- Why did you use the _____? (wedge, arch, triangle)
- What would happen if ...? Why?
- How can we make this fit?
- Can you make this same structure using different blocks?

Mathematics/ Manipulatives Area

- How many did you use?
- Tell me about the pattern you made. (color, shape)
- Show me/tell me how you put those together.
- What would happen if...?
- Why did it fall down?
- Why doesn't it fit? How could we fix it?
- How could you change this so it doesn't fall over next time?
- What should we build? How can we do it?

Art Area

- How does it feel?
- Tell me about your picture.
- Tell me about the marks on your paper.
- How many different ways can you _____?
- How did you get that color? (texture)
- What happens when you ... (cut the paper, mix the colors)?
- How could you make the ...?

Books

- What happened?
- Why do you think that happened?
- Has this ever happened to you?
- How does the story begin? How does the story end? How did it change?
- What would you do if?
- What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- What might be another way it could end?

Read-Alouds

- Who are the main characters in the story?
- What happened in the beginning (middle, end) of the story?
- How will you use these props to act out what has happened in the story?
- How was the main character different at the beginning of the story than at the end of the story?
- Why do you think the character felt that way?
- What do you think the main character learned?
- How would you change the ending?
- Make up a (song, collage) that shows something that you loved about the story.
- When was a time that you felt (frustrated, exhausted, lonely...) like the character in the story?
- What is another way the character could have solved the problem in the story?
- How would this story be different if it took place today instead of a long time ago?
- Which character would you most want to be and why?
- Do you think this could be a true story? What makes you think so?
- Should the character have done ...? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the character ...?
- How would you rewrite the ending?

Questions taken from:
Strasser, Janis, and Lisa Mufson Bresson. *Big Questions for Young Minds: Extending Children's Thinking*. National Association for the Education of Young Children, 2017.

Mufson, Lisa, and Janis Strasser. "How New Materials and the Right Questions Can Extend Preschoolers' Thinking." *Teaching Young Children*, 2016, pp. 22–25.

Dollins, Cynthia. "Juicy Questions to Ask During Read-Alouds." *Teaching Young Children*, 2016, pp. 10–11.