

25 Ways to ASK your KID, : "So how was school today?"

(without asking, "So how was school today")

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today?
(What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
3. If you could choose who would you like to sit by in class?
(Who would you NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)
4. Where is the coolest place at the school?
5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today.
(Or something weird that someone said.)
6. If I called your teacher tonight what would she tell me about you?
7. How did you help somebody today?
8. How did somebody help you today?
9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
10. When were you the happiest today?
11. When were you bored today?
12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed up someone who would you want them to take?
13. Who would you like to play with at recess that you've never played with before?
14. Tell me something good that happened today.
15. What word did your teacher say most today?
16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
19. Where do you play the most at recess?
20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
21. What was your favorite part of lunch?
22. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you do?
23. Is there anyone in your class that needs a time out?
24. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class who would you trade with? Why?
25. Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.

Reading Conferences – Sample Questions

Choose two questions from each section to begin a dialogue with your child.
The best way to begin the conference is “Tell me about your story”.

Appropriateness:

1. Why did you choose the book? Was it a good choice?
2. Was it easy or hard to read? What made it easy or hard? Were there places where you got mixed up?
3. Would you choose a similar type of book again? One by the same author?
4. What did you learn about reading from this book?

Enjoyment:

1. Compared with books you have read recently, how would you rate it?
2. Was this a good book? Why or why not?
3. Would you recommend this book to other students in the class? Why or why not?

Comprehension:

1. Tell about a few of the high points of the book.
2. Who is the hero or main character of the story? What is he/she like?
3. Do you admire any of the characters in the book? Why or why not?
4. Tell about the setting of the story. Would you like to go there? Have you ever gone anywhere like it?
5. Did you come across any interesting facts that you didn't know before? What did you learn?
6. Is this book like any others you have read? How is it the same or different?
7. What do you think the person who wrote this book was trying to say to you? Was there a lesson in the story?
8. Why did the author choose this title? Is it a good one? What would you suggest for a title?

Tips for Reading to and with Your Child

- ◆ Take turns reading a book with your child.
- ◆ Ask your child to compare a book to another familiar book.
- ◆ Ask what part of the story or book your child liked best and why.
- ◆ Ask if your child liked the ending of the story. Why or why not?
- ◆ Provide your child with a home dictionary and encyclopedia. Encourage your child to look up a word they do not know and to expand their vocabulary. Also, encourage your child to look up subjects that puzzle or interest them.
- ◆ If your child is not enthusiastic about reading, choose books on subjects sure to interest him or her: books on sports, books of riddles or magic tricks, books on hobbies. Be sure they are not too difficult for your child to read.
- ◆ If your child is a television rather than a reading fan, see which programs your child prefers and provide suitable books on the same subjects. If Westerns are your child's favourites, for example, your child will probably enjoy some of the fine children's books now available about the early West.
- ◆ If a young person is an avid comic book reader, it is ok. Make sure your child is also provided with other more worthwhile books that offer lively adventure in an easy-to-read format. Most children outgrow the comic book phase, if other literature is available in their homes.
- ◆ Set a good example as a reader – read everyday at home for at least 20 minutes even if it is a magazine or newspaper.
- ◆ Make reading fun – a time that you both look forward to spending together.

- By reading together, you can help your child toward a successful future -