

Tip Sheet: Ask Children to Make Predictions During a Read Aloud

FOR PRESCHOOL PARENTS

For additional support on this topic, visit <https://bit.ly/QTPredict> to view a short video.

WHY?

When you are reading a book with your child, pause occasionally and ask them to guess what might happen next. This is called a **prediction**.

Making predictions helps:

- Check your child's understanding – do their predictions make sense with what is happening in the story?
- Keep your child interested in the book. Interest encourages more reading!
- Encourage their development of high-level thinking skills.
- Strengthen oral language development as your child talks about what might happen in the book.

WHAT?

When children make predictions, they put together what they already know about the story and guess about what will happen next.

Some example questions you can use to get them thinking about predictions for story books include:

- What do you think will happen next? Why?
- What will the character do now?
- How do you think this story will end?

Questions for informational (nonfiction) books include:

- What do you think this book will teach us about?
- So far, we've learned that... What do you think we will read about next?

HOW?

Asking your child to make a prediction about a book based on the title and the image on the cover can also get them interested in the book. Their prediction may not be correct but, by thinking about it, they are using many skills that will help them as they learn to read. Here are some additional questions you can ask to help your child make predictions:

- "Now we know that the character... What do you think will happen next?"
- "What a surprise! That's different than what we thought would happen. Now what do you think will happen next?"
- "What an interesting story! We only have a few pages left. How do you think it will end?"