

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

FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

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

WHY?

Pause during a read aloud and ask children to make **predictions** to:

- Check children's understanding – do their predictions make sense with what is happening in the story? If not, ask questions to find out why they are misunderstanding.
- Keep children engaged in what you're reading. Asking children to make predictions gives them a reason to pay attention to the story, to see if their prediction was correct.
- Encourage high-level thinking. Making a prediction involves more thinking than a simple literal question, such as, "What is the character doing?"
- Support children's oral language development by giving them opportunities to talk.

When children make a prediction, they put together what they already know about the story and guess what will happen next. Children can make predictions with storybooks or informational books. Here are some example questions you can use to ask children to make predictions:

Storybooks:

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

Informational books:

- What do you think we will learn from this book?
- So far, the author has taught us that What do you think will happen next?

Good readers are constantly making predictions about what they are reading. As they get more information, they change their predictions based on what they have read. Sometimes adults only ask children to make a prediction before they start reading the book, based on the title or the book cover. At that point, children have very little information to make predictions. It is important to allow children to make predictions throughout the book, and give them opportunities to change their predictions based on new information. For example,

- Now we know that the character... What do you think will happen next?
- What a surprise! I didn't think that was going to happen. We need to change our thinking. Now what do you think is going to happen?
- What an interesting story! We only have a few pages left. How do you think it will end?



TEACHER TIP

It is helpful to model making predictions by thinking aloud with your group. Share your thoughts so children can know exactly what your thought process was. For example, when reading a book aloud, say something like, "The character doesn't know that her parents got her a puppy for her birthday. I bet she is going to be surprised and very happy when she finds out!"

WHAT?

HOW?