

## Levels of Questions: The Blank Language Scheme

We need to have realistic expectations of the types of questions a child can understand. 4 out of 5 of the questions we ask should be at an appropriate level for the child, with 1 in 5 from the level above. Please note, if a child is upset, they may not understand as well as they would in other circumstances.

<p>Level 1 2 3 years</p>	<p><i>Point to ..."</i> <i>Pick up the ..."</i> <i>Find one like this"</i> <i>Show me a ..."</i> <i>What's this?"</i> <i>What's that noise?"</i> <i>What did you see/hear/touch?"</i></p>	<p>The focus is on the whole object or picture which the child can see or that has just been removed. The child is expected to be able to identify the object or picture by either looking at it, pointing to it or by naming it.</p>
<p>Level 2 3 4 years</p>	<p><i>I put my hat on my..."</i> <i>What does it do?"</i> <i>What is it for?"</i> <i>Where ...?"</i> <i>Who ...?"</i> <i>What is happening in the picture?"</i> <i>What goes with the spade?"</i> <i>What else is a fruit?"</i> <i>Find a small cat?"</i> <i>Which one is ... (small/blue)?"</i></p>	<p>The questions still relate to what the child can see or something which has just been removed, however the focus is on a specific part of the object or picture.</p>
<p>Level 3 4 5 years</p>	<p><i>What have you done?"</i> <i>What might happen next?"</i> <i>What did you do today?"</i> <i>What might Jamie say?"</i> <i>When ...?"</i> <i>How do you feel when ...?"</i> <i>How might Johnny feel?"</i> <i>How are these the same?"</i> <i>Tell me how to ..."</i> <i>What is a dog?"</i> <i>Show me an animal that is not big."</i></p>	<p>The questions move beyond the here and now to talking about the past and the future. The child needs to use their knowledge and thinking skills to make predictions, see things from another's perspective or make generalisations.</p>
<p>Level 4 5+ years</p>	<p><i>What made the baby cry?"</i> <i>What made ... happen?"</i> <i>What will happen if ...?"</i> <i>What should you do if...?"</i> <i>What could Hannah do if...?"</i> <i>What do we need to make a ...?"</i> <i>How do you know?"</i> <i>How can we tell ...?"</i> <i>Why ...?"</i> <i>Why do you think ...?"</i></p>	<p>The child is required to problem solve, predict, and provide explanations. The child needs to use reasoning and draw on their past experiences.</p>