



Blank level questions

Blank Level questioning can be used throughout everyday conversations, play, learning activities and routines at home or in school. This resource provides examples of activities alongside questions and comments that can support language development and understanding at different Blank Levels.

Questions can be used to explore ideas, check understanding, and encourage thinking. Equally important are comments, which model vocabulary, sentence structures, and ways to talk about experiences without placing pressure on a child to respond. Using a balance of questions and comments creates supportive communication opportunities and allows children to engage in ways that work for them. Examples of both are included throughout this resource.

Summary of Blank levels

Level 1: Name it

Level 2: Describe it

Level 3: Think about it

Level 4: Explain it

Craft activity



Craft activities provide opportunities to talk about materials, instructions, creativity and problem-solving. Adults can use questions and comments to support vocabulary, sequencing and discussion while children create and explore their ideas.

	Question / instruction	Comments
Level 1	Where is the glue?	You are using the scissors
	Find scissors	The paper is here
	Use the paintbrush	This is a ruler
Level 2	What else could we stick it with?	The ruler is for drawing a straight line / measuring
	What shall we measure it with?	You are cutting the shiny paper
	Who is using the glitter?	Your picture is very colourful; it has lots of different shapes on it
Level 3	First cut out the wings, next glue them to body and then decorate your butterfly	I think your grandma will feel very happy when you give her this card
	Tell me how you made that	When I add the red to the blue paint it will turn purple
	What do we need to do before we can use the glue?	Paint and crayons are similar because they both add colour
Level 4	What will happen if you use too much paint?	We must put the lids on the paint so they don't dry out
	How are you going to make sure they stick?	We do not have any red paint left; I will use a crayon instead
	Why did you choose those colours?	The paper did not stick because it was too heavy and the glue was not strong enough

PE



PE lessons and active play offer natural opportunities to talk about movement, equipment, teamwork and strategy. Questions and comments can help children develop both language and understanding while participating in activities.

	Question / instruction	Comments
Level 1	What is this equipment called?	You have a football
	Find the beanbags	This is the goalpost
	Point to the balance beam	I am the referee
Level 2	The ball goes with the...	Red team are defending the ball well
	Find a ball that is small and green	You walked quickly and kept your balance
	Who is running?	The cricket ball is harder than the tennis ball
Level 3	Tell me how to play rounders	Before we start the race, you need to warm up so your muscles are ready
	Find something you can throw that is not a ball	If you throw the ball harder, it will go further
	Hold the blue ball, aim at the hoop, and throw it overarm	Oh no blue team missed, they will feel disappointed
Level 4	Why is teamwork important in this game?	Keep your head up while dribbling. It helps you see the whole field.
	Why can't you sprint without warming up first?	Remember to drink lots of water today, it is very hot and you need to stay hydrated
	How can we tell that the balls need pumping up?	Why is it called a basketball?

Science



Science activities encourage children to observe, investigate and explain. Adults can support curiosity and learning by discussing what children notice, introducing new vocabulary and making links between ideas.

	Question / instruction	Comments
Level 1	What is this called?	This is a bulb
	Point to the stem	I can see petals
	Find another leaf like this	Roots
Level 2	What happened to the seed?	Plants need water and light
	What is different about the petal and the leaf?	The stem is tall and the leaves are shiny
	What else grows in the ground?	The roots suck up water from the soil
Level 3	What will happen if we do not water the plant?	Now we have planted the seeds, we must wait for the shoots to appear
	First push the seeds into the soil, then give them a little bit of water and put the tray on the windowsill	The seeds will germinate - that means they will start growing
	What similarities do the petal and the leaf share?	Tell me how to plant the seeds
Level 4	Why do plants need sunlight?	One plant might grow better because it has more water or light
	How do you know this plant is healthy?	We cannot leave the plants here over the holidays because they will die from lack of water
	How are you going to make sure this plant survives?	An evergreen plant keeps their green leaves all year round

Geography



Geography provides opportunities to explore places, environments, maps, and weather. Conversations can help children describe, compare, and explain what they know about the world around them.

	Question / instruction	Comments
Level 1	Where is the river?	This is the town
	Point to the road	I can see hills
	What is this called?	There is another river
Level 2	What is the weather like today?	Farmers work in the countryside
	What is a map for?	England is bigger than Wales
	How is the city different to the village?	A compass is used to work out which way you are facing
Level 3	What might happen to this landscape if it rains a lot?	An atlas and a globe are similar because they both show you where places are in the world
	Tell me a country that is not in Great Britain	If a new road was built, more people might travel there
	What are coordinates?	The river burst its banks because the rainfall was heavy and added too much water to the channel
Level 4	Why do people choose to live near rivers?	I can tell it is going to rain because the clouds are very dark and low in the sky
	How do you know this is a busy place?	If I took this shortcut I would get there quicker because I would not have to drive through town
	What would you do if the roads to school were closed?	We know that this area is mountainous because the contour lines are close together

Book sharing



Sharing books supports language, vocabulary, and comprehension. Children may engage with books in different ways, and stories provide rich opportunities for discussion, prediction and exploring new language together.

	Question / instruction	Comments
Level 1	Who is this?	This is Charlie Bucket
	Find another one like this	Wow! The golden ticket
	Show me the factory	Willie Wonka
Level 2	Who ended up in the TV?	Charlie's house is small and cosy
	How are Charlie and Verruca different?	Willy Wonka is creative and mysterious
	What is happening on this page?	The Oompa Loompas are singing whilst they do their work
Level 3	How do the children feel when they first enter the factory?	Augustus and Violet are the same; they don't listen to the warnings and they are greedy
	Summarise this story in one sentence	I think Charlie will receive the special prize because he is behaving and being kind
	What will happen next?	Flabbergasted means completely shocked, surprised or amazed.
Level 4	Why shouldn't we eat so many sweets and chocolate?	Mike TV is obsessed with screens, so he thinks the factory is not as exciting as watching a movie
	Why do you think Willy Wonka invited children and not adults to visit the factory?	Violet turned into a blueberry because she ate a sweet that was not finished yet
	Why is this called a chocolate waterfall?	Charlie's family do not have a lot of money. Their house is cold and they have little food.