Family Reading Time
Asking Open-Ended Questions

Introduction: And now, it’s Family Reading Time!

Narrator: Did you know that asking your child questions while reading can help him become a stronger reader?

Adult: Why do you think he’s calling for his mama?
Child: Because he wants a drink
Adult: You think?
Child: Oh! Because he’s lonely.

Narrator: Asking open-ended questions, or questions that don’t have simple yes or no answers, gives your child the chance to use a lot of language, and helps her understand what’s happening in the book.

Adult: What do you notice about his face?
Child: Is he happy?
Adult: What do you think?
Child: He is sad.
Adult: How do you know he’s sad?
Child: I don’t know.
Adult: Look here. What’s that?
Child: A tear.
Adult: A tear. Is he crying?
Child: Yeah.

Narrator: Research shows that having conversations during book reading can strengthen children’s language and early literacy skills.

Narrator: Family Reading Time Tip: Ask your child open-ended questions when reading.

Closing: Family Reading Time has been brought to you by the Windham Area Women & Girls Fund and the Center for Early Childhood Education at Eastern Connecticut State University.