**Open-ended questions**

These are questions to which there are many answers, with no one answer in particular being the ‘correct’ one.

Open-ended questions encourage children to think rather than recite a fact. They are an integral part of thinking skills as they develop creative thinking, problem solving and cognitive growth.

Open-ended questions allow children to use the knowledge they have to come up with an answer rather than worrying about getting the right answer.

They encourage talk and discussion as opposed to a one-word answer to a closed question.

An answer to an open-ended question reveals more about a child’s knowledge and concepts than a learned fact.

Children know that you know the answer to a closed question; an open question, however, is more intriguing, motivating, challenging and engaging.

Open-ended questions use wording such as:

* I wonder if…?
* What could we do…?
* Can you find a way to …?
* What would happen if…?
* What do you think that happened…?
* What did you notice about…?
* Tell me about…?

When asking a question stop and think:

* Why am I asking this question?
* Is it to check on memory or a fact, or is it to encourage a child to draw upon previous knowledge in order to develop his or her  thinking?