



Question Answering and Asking Milestones

In language development, a child must be able to ask and answer questions in order to navigate a conversation and to seek and relay information. When assessing a child's ability to ask and answer questions, it is important to separate her content knowledge from her ability to ask or answer questions.

Answering Questions

Age	Milestones
1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks in the appropriate place when asked a simple question, such as "Where is Daddy?" Chooses an object with intentionality when asked about a choice of two, such as "Do you want milk or juice?" Answers "where" questions, such as "Where's the ball?" by pointing to the pictured item in a book Answers "What's this?" questions about familiar objects or pictures such as <i>cookie</i> or <i>baby</i> Answers "yes/no" questions, possibly with a head nod or shake
2 – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points to objects when described, such as "What do you wear on your head?" Answers simple <i>wh</i>- questions logically Answers critical thinking questions, such as "What do you do when you are cold?" Answers questions, such as, "Where...?," "What's that?," "What's ... doing?," "Who is...?" Answers or understands "Can you...?" questions
3 – 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers more complex questions logically, such as "who," "why," "where," and "how" Answers "If...what?" questions, such as "If it starts raining, what would you do?" Answers questions about functions of objects, such as "What are spoons for?" and "Why do we have shoes?"
4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers "when" questions Answers "how many" questions (in which the answer does not exceed four)

Asking Questions

Age	Milestones
1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts to use question forms, beginning with "What's that?" Uses rising intonation
2 – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks simple egocentric questions, such as "Where cookie?" Asks "Where...?," "What...?," "What...doing?" questions
2 – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks one-word "why" questions Uses "what," "where," "when," "how," and "whose" when asking questions Asks "is" questions Inverts auxiliary and subject in <i>wh</i>- questions, such as "Where is dad going?"
3 – 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks the following types of questions using correct grammatical structure: Early Infinitive: "Do you want to...?" Future: "Are we going to...?" Modal can/may: "Can you...?"

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