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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**8.8 Understanding question words using stories**

**Why is this important?  
Children need to be able to process a variety of question words in a range of  
different situations. Questions are a way of finding out what children  
know/can remember about an activity/event, etc. and also a means of  
encouraging reflection and thinking skills.**

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What to do  
• Read a simple story together. Choose favourite books, about animals  
perhaps, or favourite characters  
(e.g. ‘Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs’).\*  
• Ask questions about the story (e.g. for ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarves’,  
ask:  
★ ‘Where did the dwarves go to work?’  
★ ‘What were the dwarves digging for?’  
★ ‘Why did Snow White go to sleep?’  
★ ‘Who gave Snow White the  
poisonous apple?’  
★ ‘How did the dwarves feel when Snow White went to sleep?’)  
• If the child doesn’t answer or answers inappropriately, try:  
★ Offering a choice of answers (e.g. ‘Where did the dwarves go to work?  
Was it in a shop or down the mine?’).  
★ Re-read part of the story where the answer is and then repeat the question.**