



40 POSITIVE WAYS TO ASK “WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?”

When asking children what they did at school, some responds with the same answer every day, others focus on only the things which have gone wrong and some don't say anything at all. This sometimes leaves parents worrying that their child hasn't had a good day, when in fact they have. Varying and using more specific questions is likely to help you find much more out about your child's day, including what went well.

When children are very small they answer questions by pointing to or showing you something. As learn to talk, they begin to answers 'where...?' and 'what...?' questions with words. By the time they start school, most children are can also answer questions beginning with, 'who...?', 'when...?', 'how...?' and 'if...?'. By the age of 7 most can manage 'why...?' questions too.

I hope that the list below will give you ideas and help you find out more about your child's day. Different parents will like different questions, and hopefully you'll be able to come up with even more questions. Have fun! 😊

What....?

1. What was the best thing that happened at school?
2. What made you laugh/smile/giggle?
3. What made your teacher/friend smile?
4. What new word did you learn today?
5. What was the nicest/kindest thing you did for someone else?
6. What word did your teacher say most today?
7. What new fact did you learn today?
8. What challenged you today?
9. What is your teacher's most important rule?
10. What surprised you today?
11. What was the best thing you learned today?
12. What would have made your day a little better?
13. What did you do today that you'd never done before?
14. What did your teacher say today that made you laugh/smile?
15. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
16. What was your best idea today?

Where...?

17. Where is the best place to sit in the classroom/hall at lunchtime/hall for assembly?
18. Where is the best place to play outside?

Who...?

19. Who did you make laugh/ smile/giggle?
20. Who did you say 'thankyou' to?
21. Who did you sit next to in class/at lunch/in assembly today?
22. Who was kind/nice/helpful to you?

23. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
24. Who is the most thoughtful/responsible person in your class?
25. Who do you want to make friends with but haven't yet?

When...?

26. When were you the happiest today?
27. When did you feel most proud of yourself?
28. When did you feel successful today?

How...?

29. How did you use your pencil today?
30. How were you responsible today?
31. How did you use your imagination today?
32. How did you help somebody today?
33. How did somebody help you today?
34. How would you rate your day on a scale of 1 – 10?

If...?

35. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?
36. If one of your classmates could be the teacher for the day who would you want it to be?
37. If you could change one thing that happened today, what would that be?
38. If you could describe your day in just three words, what would they be?
39. If you wrote a book about your day at school today, what would the title be?
40. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed someone up, who would they take? Why?

NB If your child is not yet able to answer questions, it will be helpful to instead comment on what they bring home from school.

Bryony Landsbert (Educational Psychologist for the Didcot Partnership of Schools) Modified September 2020

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