

# Asking & Answering Questions

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Auditory processing is the way our brain receives information from our ears, figures out the meaning of the signal, and determines the appropriate way to respond. One processing skill is the ability to respond accurately to questions. Some question types are more difficult to process than others. Many times a child will echo a question instead of answering it. For example, if you ask, *"What are you doing?"* your toddler might answer, *"Doing."* The easiest question types to answer are as follows:

- **Yes/No** – ask an EASY yes/no question, such as *"Do you want a cookie?"* versus a more difficult yes/no question, such as *"Did you take that toy away from your brother?"* You can help a toddler learn to answer by exaggerating your head nodding "yes" or shaking "no." A good way to practice this is by hiding a toy in one of several containers and playing a search game. *"Is it in here?" "No!" "Is it in here?" "Yes!"*
- **What's this?** – Naming familiar objects is an early verbal expression skill. You may find some inconsistency with responses to a *"What's this?"* question. Try multiple choice – *"What's this?" "Is it a ball or a truck?"*
- **Where?** – Toddlers should respond to *"where"* questions by searching and pointing. When you ask, *"Where's your shoe?"* you will know that the information is processed if the child looks at the shoe, shows the shoe, or points to the shoe. Eventually, he/she will answer with a word like *"Here"* or *"There."* You should not expect him/her to express a location (*"in the bedroom"*) until he/she is much older.
- **What doing?** – Toddlers learn the names of people and objects (nouns) before they learn action words (verbs). When your toddler begins to use early action words, such as eat, drink, sleep, run, and clap, you can begin to ask, *"What's he (she, it) doing?"* Remember that the *-ing* ending on a verb is difficult and may not initially be expressed.
- **Whose?** – Toddlers learn early that certain things are theirs. Try asking this question – *"This shirt is mine." "Whose shirt is this?"* Practice turn taking. *"Whose turn is it?"*
- **Who?** – Practice this with your family photo album. *"Who is this?"*

Question types that are too difficult for most two-year-olds include:

When?

Why?

How Many?

What color?

What if?

