Suggested questions to ask your child to support reading development

Talking to your children about the books they read is one of the best ways to support your child's literacy development. Your child needs to engage in critical thinking to discuss and enjoy a book. Here are some questions you can ask your child about their reading; choose a few each night to engage in conversation with your child about their reading.

Before you start reading, ask:

- Why did you choose this book?
- What makes you think this book is going to be interesting?
- What do you think the book is going to be about?
- Does this book remind you of anything else you have read?
- What kind of characters do you think will be in the book and why?
- What do you think is going to happen, and what makes you think that?
- What information do you think you are going to find?
- What questions do you thinking the book will answer?

While you are reading, try asking:

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What has made you think that?
- If you were that character, what would you have done?
- Where is the book set?
- If the main character in that story lived next door, would you be friends?
- What does the place look like in your head as you read? Would you want to visit there?
- Have you learnt any new words or facts so far?

After you have finished, ask:

- What was your favourite part of the book? Why?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- What was the most interesting thing you learnt from the book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- Would you have ended the book differently? Did it end the way you thought it would?
- Did the problem of the book's plot get solved?
- If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?

For fun:

Have them act out a scene from the book, draw a picture of their favorite part to decorate the refrigerator, or write a follow-up story. They can pretend they are a book reviewer reviewing the book on TV, or they can write a letter or postcard to the author.