When there’s only one answer..

The Key: asking open-ended questions. They help students think!

What would you like to know about....*

Asking open-ended questions that don’t have one “right” answer gives children confidence to respond in creative ways without being afraid of being “wrong.”

*KWL CHART
When reading a book:

• What do you think might happen next?
• Does this remind you of anything else from your own life? Give me an example!
• Can you tell me about something that you read today?
• Why did she/he/it act that way?
• What is your opinion?
• Do you agree? Why yes/not?
• What will happen? What will happen next?
When visiting an unfamiliar place/seeing/learning something new:

• How is ..... similar or different from....?*
• Can you explain/ show me that in another way?
• What does this remind you of? Explain...
• How can we make groups?
• What do you want to know about this place/topic?
• Where would you take your cousins to visit?

* Venn Diagrams
When making an important decision:

• How would you rank that?
• What’s more important? Why?
• Could you do it differently?
• How do you imagine …would look?
• Why did you decide to choose ….over …?
When faced with a problem:

- What other way could you do it?
- What would happen if...
- Give a different solution...
- Why did you decide to do... and not...?
Activities

Children Thinking Skills

• Interpreting data:
  Activity:
  – Put the data in columns and rows
  – Put it in a graph:
    • Line graph
    • Bar graph
    • Pictograph
    • Pie
Activities

Children Thinking Skills

- Making a Hypothesis
  Activity:
  - Based on your previous knowledge or experience, and mixed with “empirical knowledge” or what you just learned: make a hypothesis, or an “educated guess”
  - Draw a conclusion
  - Generate ideas
Activities

Children Thinking Skills

• Say it in your own words.
  – Restate it in your own words.
  – “Think with analogies, metaphors and similes”
Activities

Children Thinking Skills

• Investigating a problem.

  Activity:
  – Researching...finding something out.
  – What are the steps needed?
  – Brainstorm
  – Write lists
  – Make groups: each group deals with a different aspect of the problem
Activities

Children Thinking Skills

• Making something according to what you’ve read/learned/heard/seen
  Activity:
  – Making a model
  – Writing a story
  – Making a comic strip
  – Role Play and demonstrating
Activities

Children Thinking Skills

• Inventing something new
  – Giving different uses for old items (recycling games and imaginative games – “What could it be?”)
Visual Aids

- Graphic Organizers
- “Draw a Picture” – “A picture is worth 1,000 words”
HOTS Game

Question/question game
Sources

- Children Thinking Skills
- Read, Write, Think