

This week's PODD communication focus...

Asking questions: What? Why? When?...



- The Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) communication books and pagesets allow children to communicate for many different reasons – to request objects, to protest, give information, comment, and even to **ask questions**.
- Asking questions is an important aspect to developing an active, problem-solving personality and to engaging in life-long learning opportunities, so it is essential that children receive **frequent models** of how to do this using their communication book.
- To ask questions using most PODDs, it is necessary to use the 'I'm asking a question' branch starter. *In some of the PODDs with more vocabulary items on each page, the question words are repeated throughout the book as 'predictably associated vocabulary'.*
- In most PODDs, once you find the question word you require, eg. What, Who, When; **you then need to 'go to categories' to make your question more specific**. Some question types will take you directly to another page, eg. 'Where is person?' would take you straight to page 9 – people pages.
- You can **model** 'I'm asking a question' on many occasions in your daily life:
 - After school, asking your child what they did during the day.**
"I'm asking a question – What – go to categories – actions – do, did, does – What did you do?"
 - Asking another family member where they are going**
"I'm asking a question – Where – go to categories – places – go, went – Where are you going?"
 - Asking another family member when they will be home**
"I'm asking a question – When – go to categories – places – home – When will you be home?"
 - Asking your child or another family member how they are**
"I'm asking a question – How – go back to page 1 – chat words – you, your yours – How are you?"
 - Asking your child about their opinion**
"I'm asking a question – turn the page – What do you think?"
 - After school, asking your child who was at school**
"I'm asking a question – Who – go to categories – school – Who was at school?"
- There are also many opportunities to ask questions that require a yes or no answer. For example – Are you thirsty?; Do you want to go home?; Would you like to listen to a story?; In most PODD books, these are asked using the **"I'm asking a question – you need to tell me yes or no"** branch.
- This question type takes you directly to categories to ask your specific question by going to the relevant category, eg.
- "I'm asking a question – you need to tell me yes or no – go to categories – activities – something to eat or drink – drink, thirsty – Are you thirsty?"
- Focus this week on asking a variety of questions using your child's PODD communication book. Try to include other family members when modelling by asking them questions in front of you child. **Try to model asking questions that your child might also want or need to ask.**